



# The Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics



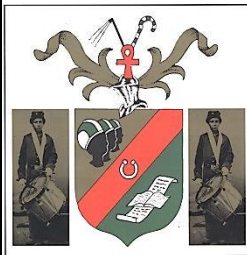
Harry Bradshaw Matthews  
2023 Revision



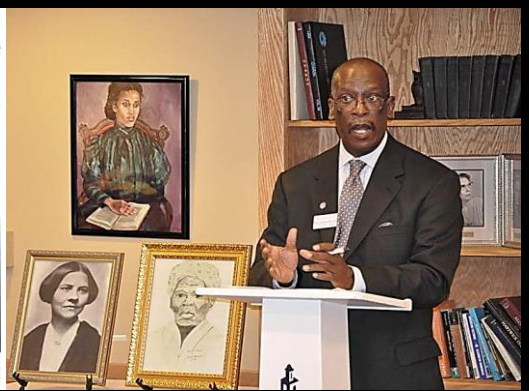


African American Freedom Journey  
in New York and Related Sites, 1823-1870

Freedom Knows No Color



Harry Bradshaw Matthews



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[Matthewsheritageservices@gmail.com](mailto:Matthewsheritageservices@gmail.com)

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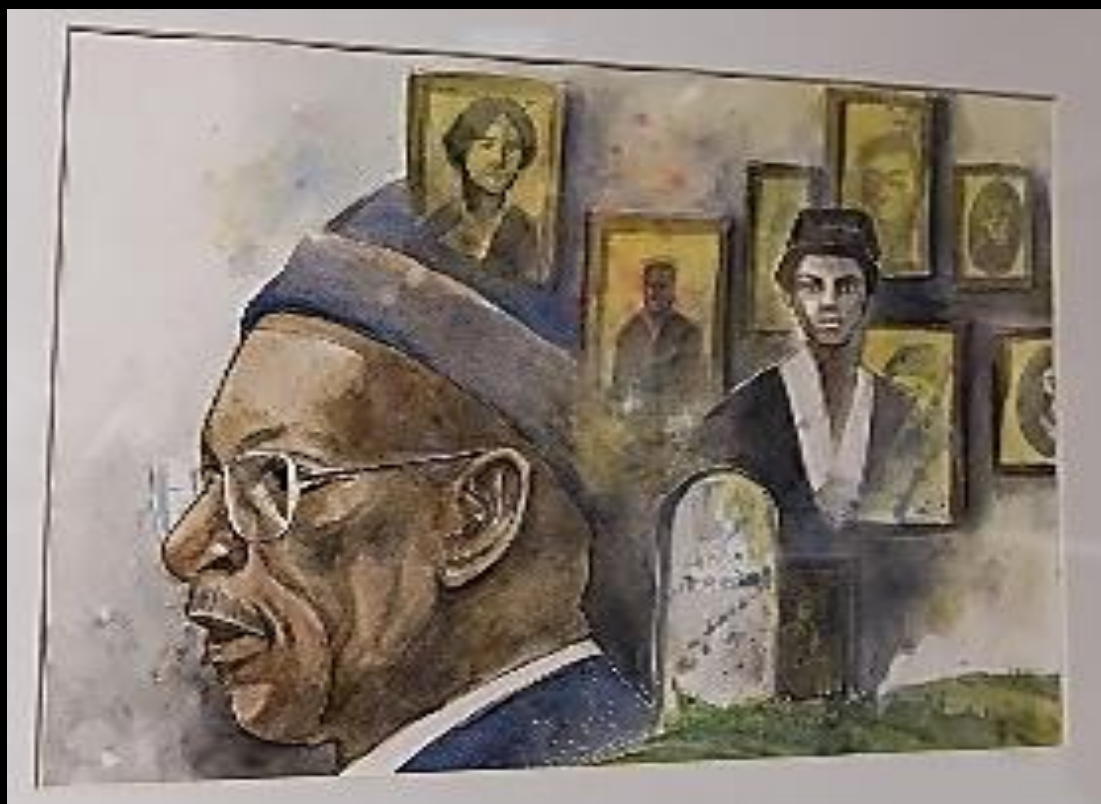
Revised June 2012, September 2016, January 2023



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

The SUNY Oneonta Connection

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**SUNY Oneonta: Water Color Honoring Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Class of 1974,  
by Xiaoyi Zeng, 2017, Visual Student Artist  
at SUNY Oneonta**



# The Matthews Collection

## Supporting the USCT Institute

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The Matthews Collection is a privately owned collection consisting of more than 2,500 items, primarily first-edition books about African Americans and the greater African diaspora with some lithographs, reproduction paintings of historic personalities, newspaper illustrations, and coins. Also included are the writings of Harry Bradshaw Matthews that pertain to the Freedom Journey.



The Matthews Collection is used for:

**Gallery Talks** – presentations regarding the Civil War, family research, Freedom Journey, Cato Freedom Project, Underground Railroad, and related topics.

**Field Trips** – off-campus visits to preservation sites by interns conducting historical research.

**Exhibitions** - items provided for lectures, presentations, and workshops.

**Internet Access** – References to the USCT Institute are numerous on the internet with a post-COVID website to be determined. In the meantime, all communications should be forwarded to [Matthewsheritageservices@gmail.com](mailto:Matthewsheritageservices@gmail.com)





# USCT Institute, ASFD, and the Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project

The USCT Institute was initiated at SUNY Oneonta in May 1998 and later established as a membership organization based at Hartwick College in October 1998 for the research, preservation, and remembrance of the 200,000 black soldiers and their 7,000 white officers who comprised the USCT. The Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project was established at Hartwick College in September 2007 as the official student branch of the USCTI. The American Society of Freedmen Descendants was organized in 2010. The Buffalo Soldiers Remembrance Group was established in 2013. Together, the four entities explore the topics of:



**Freedom Journey** – Researching, preserving, and commemorating Black Revolutionary War Patriots, Anti-Slavery Sentiments, Abolitionist Actions, Underground Railroad, USCT, and the Civil War.

**Local History and Family Research** – Studying primary documents, census indices, and genealogical pursuits.

**Post-Reconstruction Through the Korean War** – Following the Freedom Journey through Reconstruction into military history during the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

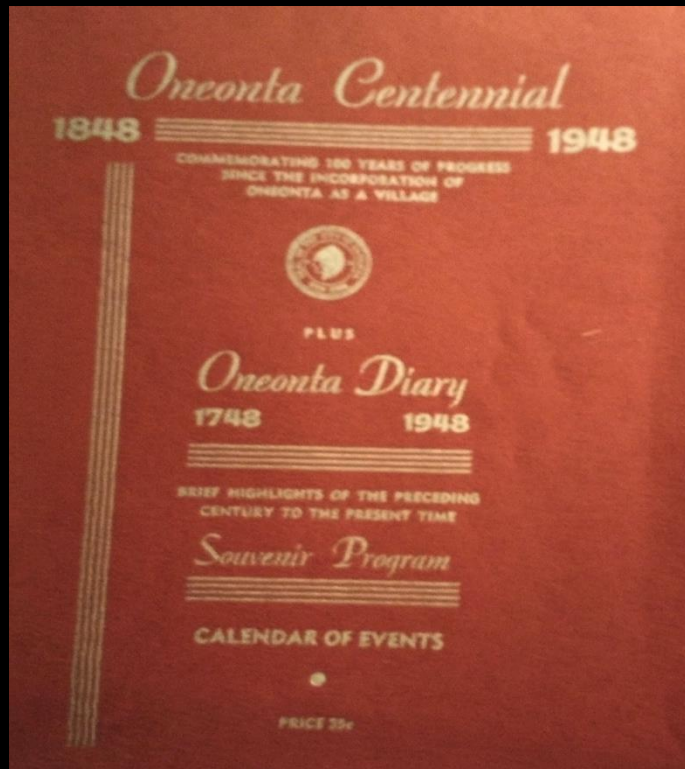
**African American History** – Researching, collecting, and studying the history of Africans in America, inclusive of the United States, Canada, and Caribbean countries.





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

SUNY Oneonta: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR



**Source:** *Oneonta Centennial 1848-1948*, City of Oneonta, 1948; a first edition copy is at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library. A first edition is also in the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.

**“1860 – UGRR** A family of eight negroes were passed from this place July 25 on the underground railroad toward Canada by some philanthropic citizens.”



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Hartwick College Connection:  
Rev. John Lawyer's Franckean Synod



**Source:** *Gettysburgh Star and Banner*, "Franckean Lutheran Synod," 1837; a facsimile is in the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.

**1837 – "Resolved ...** That we view the traffick in human beings as carried on in this country between Ministers of the Gospel and Members of the Churches, as revolting to humanity and repugnant to the laws of Christ, as ever was Foreign Slave Trade.  
Robert White Middleton  
*Star & Republican Banner*,  
Gettysburg June 30, 1837"

This posting made clear the connection between Lutherans in Gettysburg and Adams County, PA, with those in the locale of the Franckean Lutherans in counties neighboring that of Otsego County, NY.

For the Gettysburgh STAR AND BANNER

## FRANCKEAN LUTHERAN SYNOD

Rev. John Lawyer, a Lutheran clergyman communicated these proceeding from Utica. These are important, as being the first Anti-Slavery resolutions passed by the New York Lutheran body. Mr. Middleton asked his Lutheran subscribers to read the statements and trusted Gettysburg readers would support this bold stand. The publisher concluded, "*It is the DUTY of all such bodies of every Evangelical denomination, to bear their decided testimony against the Sin of Slavery.*"

At a late Session of this Synod, held at Fordsbush, Montgomery County, New York, on the 25th of May 1837, the following resolutions were passed on the subject of American Slavery, viz:

### *Resolved —*

That Slavery as it exists in the United States, the holding in bondage and buying and selling of human beings, is a sin in the sight of God, opposed to the spirit of the Gospel, and a violation of the inalienable rights of man.

### *Resolved ---*

That we do not deem it inexpedient for Ecclesiastical bodies to interfere with the Abolition of Slavery, but it is the duty of all such bodies of every evangelical denomination, to bear their decided testimony against the sin of Slavery.

### *Resolved ---*

That we have abundant cause for deep humiliation before God, that, as a denomination, we are so deeply involved in the sin of Slavery, and that so many of our Ministers practice the crime, and so many others justify them in their iniquity.

### *Resolved ---*

That we view the traffick in human beings as carried on in this country between Ministers of the Gospel and Members of the Churches, as revolting to humanity and as repugnant to the laws of Christ, as ever was Foreign Slave Trade.

Robert White Middleton  
*Star & Republican Banner*,  
Gettysburg, June 30, 1837



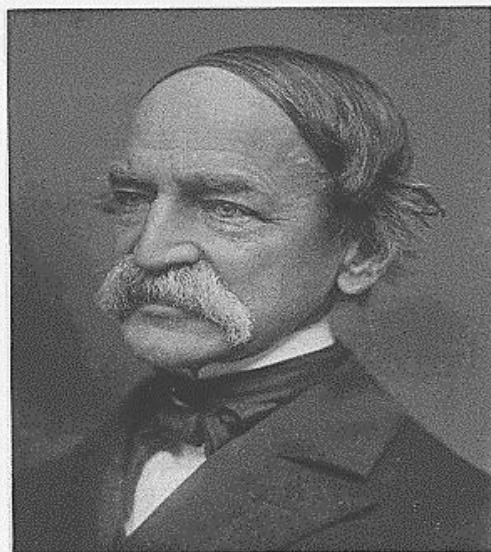
# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Hartwick College Connection:  
Congressman Isaac Newton Arnold

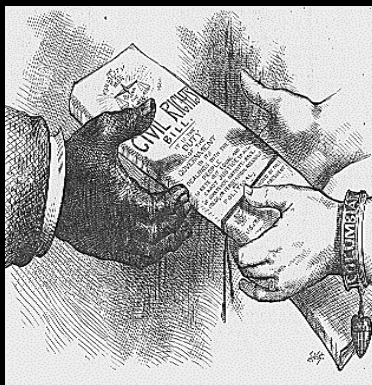


HARTWICK SEMINARY.

*When I in fact was educated, here*



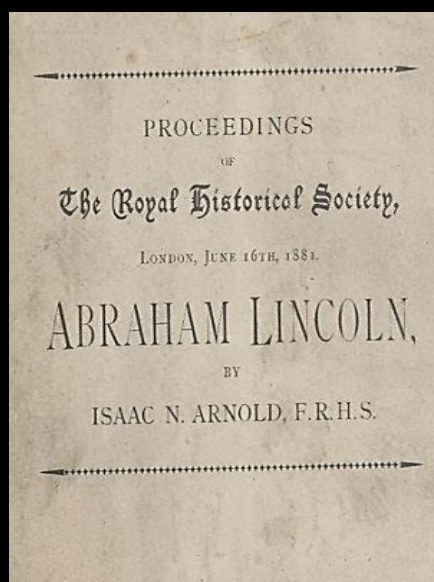
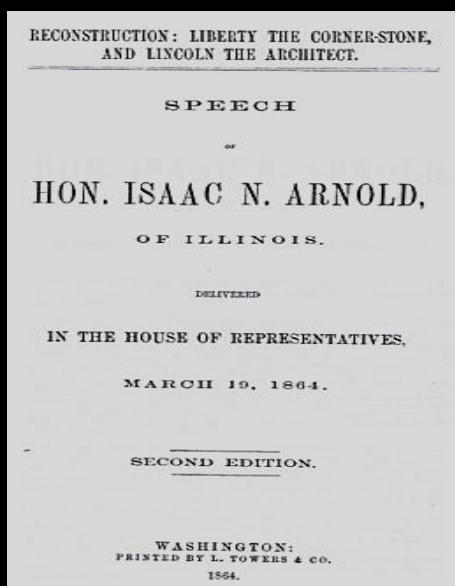
*Isaac N. Arnold*



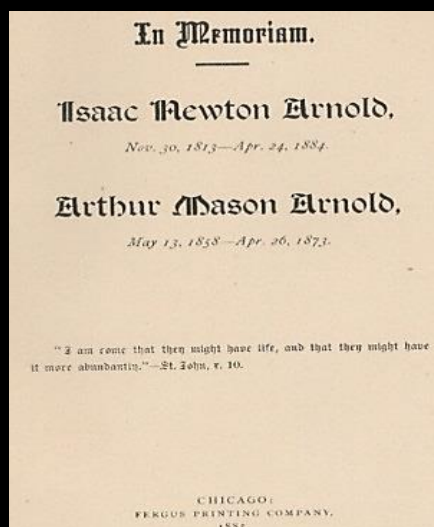


# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Hartwick College Connection:  
Congressman Isaac Newton Arnold



**Source:** These items are in the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of the African American Freedom Journey Classics.





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## SUNY Oneonta: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR



**Source:** *In Old Oneonta, Vol. 3*, Edwin R. Moore, 1964, 1989; a first edition and facsimile copy are at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library. [Upper Susquehanna Historical Society, 1964; reprinted, *The Daily Star* etc., 1989, p. 13]

**UGRR** – “It was nearly dawn when the big farm wagon drew up in the back yard of the Ford Stone Mansion and the small group of colored people alighted. The women went into the basement kitchen to help Mrs. Ford prepare breakfast while the men busied themselves with whatever tasks came to hand. After a hearty meal the runaway slaves were lodged in improvised quarters over the stables, there to sleep until nightfall, when they would set out, with fresh driver and horses, for Gerrit Smith’s home near Utica [at Peterboro], the next step on their way to Canada and Freedom.”

“Such scenes occurred at intervals during the two decades just prior to the Civil War, for the Stone Mansion, located where the Wilber Bank now stands, was a “station” on the Underground Railroad and Eliakim R. Ford, the most prominent citizen of Oneonta at the time, was the station master ...”

“When we were a boy we heard E. Reed Ford, youngest son of the station master, tell of the work of his father in the movement. Reed Ford was a lad in the period just before the Civil War and witnessed the arrival of many “trains” at his home. He recalled the gratitude of the negroes and their desire to do as much work as possible during their brief stay at the big house.”



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## National News: Preservation of the UGRR, 1997



### SPECIAL REPORT: RACIAL DIVISIONS

## Underground Railroad revisited

Legislation would honor slaves' fight for freedom

By PAUL BARTON  
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — At a time when President Clinton is trying to address anew the nation's racial divisions, a little-noticed bill in Congress could prove a starting point for bringing blacks and whites together, historians say.

Legislation pending in House and Senate committees would instruct the National Park Service to develop ways of commemorating, honoring and interpreting the Underground Railroad.

The term refers to the system of back roads, swamps, waterways, hidden shelters and tunnels, and forests that were used to move slaves from the slaveholding states to freedom before the Civil War.

As important as this shadow infrastructure were the people, the "conductors," who often risked their lives to help slaves make it to freedom.

The legislation is expected to pass easily once it reaches the House and Senate floors, and pressure is building for that to happen this fall.

Primary movers of the legislation are Ohio Reps. Rob Portman, a Republican, and Louis Stokes, a Democrat.

Ohio harbored extensive Underground Railroad movement before the Civil War.

Senate sponsors include Sens. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill.

The measure would give the story of the railroad more national historical emphasis than it has ever enjoyed.

Civil rights leaders and specialists on African American history say it is long overdue and that it should be important for whites as well as blacks. Those who helped move slaves to freedom were often white.

"I think this commemoration is important for Americans in many ways," said James Oliver Horton, a professor at George Washington University and co-author of the newly published *In Hope of Liberty*.

"In many ways it is the quintessential American story. It is the story of people who would not be denied freedom and the story of those who would help them in acquisition of freedom, despite great odds."

And it is a commemoration of

### Routes to freedom

Slaves escaped to freedom along a loosely connected series of routes called the Underground Railroad. Guides along the routes were called conductors and hiding places were called depots or stations.



Source: U.S. Department of the Interior.

Gannett News Service

*"It is perfect timing. We think of black and white as opposing forces, only that was never entirely the case."*

Harry Bradshaw Matthews

whites and blacks working together.

"To that extent it is especially important when we as Americans are trying to come to grips with the (race) issue," Horton said.

President Clinton this summer made a major policy speech at the University of California at San Diego on race relations and has appointed a special national commission to examine the history and status of race relations in the country.

In that context, the Underground Railroad legislation becomes all the more important, scholars contend.

"It is perfect timing," said Harry Bradshaw Matthews, associate dean and director of pluralism programs at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y.

"We think of black and white as opposing forces, only that was never entirely the case," Matthews said.

Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, agrees.

"I think it would be of enormous historic significance," he said of the legislation. "I think it would make an enormous contribution to race relations."

The heritage of the Underground Railroad belongs to both blacks and whites, scholars say.

"That's how you open up communion. You have to find common ground," Matthews said.

Matthews said the Underground Railroad belongs to all

time when researchers are working like never before to document the role of black soldiers and sailors in the Civil War.

Thousands of whites fought alongside them in the same units.

The story of the Underground Railroad also will help the nation face head on the history of slavery, and the different meanings of that history for whites and blacks.

For young blacks, the scholars say, it is important to know that their ancestors did not accept slavery, despite some assertions to the contrary.

"I think it gets to the notion that African Americans during the pre-Civil War period were not satisfied living in slavery, and within the constraints of the slave system, African Americans made every effort to obtain freedom," said John Fleming, executive director of the National Afro-American Museum in Wilberforce, Ohio.

"The historical interpretation has been in the opposite direction, that blacks did not rebel, did not fight for freedom and were more or less content."

The Underground Railroad story has special meaning for whites also.

"It's been very hard for American whites to try to deal with aspects of African American history because what they are dealing with are accusations against

Blasingame, professor of history and Afro-American studies at Yale.

But, added Horton, the George Washington University scholar, "Every white person didn't accept the institution of slavery."

Underground Railroad sites exist in at least 29 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

The legislation calls on the National Park Service to formally recognize and link the sites, develop more educational materials related to them and to enter into public-private partnerships that would help in preservation and commemoration efforts.

WEDNESDAY  
SEP 10 1997

SUNBELLE'S

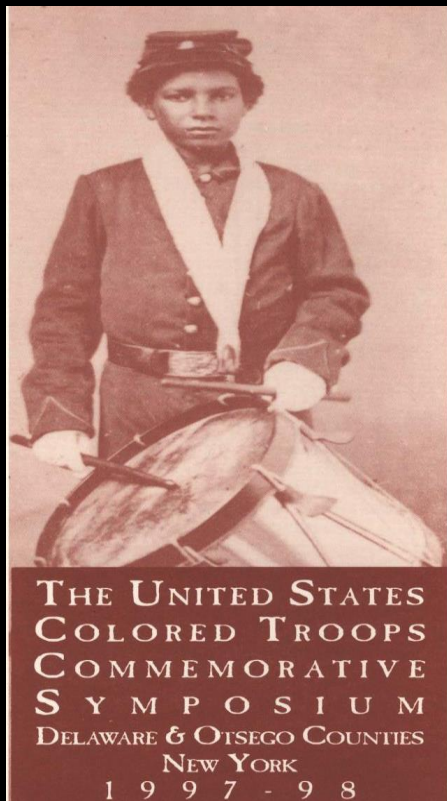
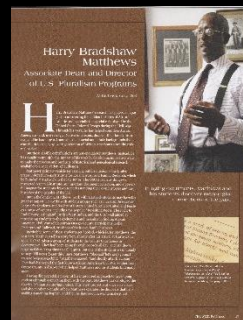
83

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# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

New York Governor George E. Pataki  
Proclamation Honoring USCT  
and Underground Railroad, 1997-1998



**Source:** The United States Colored Troops Commemorative Symposium of Delaware & Otsego Counties, New York, 1997-98, was a joint venture between Hartwick College, SUNY Oneonta, the City of Oneonta and other regional entities. New York State Senator James Seward facilitated the issuance of Governor Pataki's proclamation that was presented to Harry Bradshaw Matthews. The Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III was the keynote speaker.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

*The Daily Star*. Preservation of the UGRR, 1998



## Stopping along the road to freedom

This is the third in a series of four stories on local black history being published during February, in recognition of Black History Month.

By BRENT HALLENBECK  
Staff Writer

Early 19th-century legend has it that Ira Emmons killed a slave at his property east of Oneonta, at what is still known as Emmons Farms. The slave, so the story goes, still haunts the house today.

Ed Moore, the late Oneonta historian, debunked the theory, noting that Emmons had one indentured servant and no slaves, and that slavery was eradicated in New York state long before the Civil War.

A current Oneonta historian, Harry Bradshaw Matthews, director of pluralism programs at Hartwick College, also doubts the tale and others supposedly linking Emmons' farm to the Underground Railroad.

But the legend typifies tales from the era of slavery, abolitionism and the Underground Railroad. The tales are hard to prove or disprove because it was

BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH  
TODAY  
Abolitionism

an era of secrecy, one where business was conducted not in the open but in cellars and closed-door meetings, wherever those fighting for the rights of blacks could gather without fear of reprisal.

While this area's role in that era may not be as significant as that of other upstate New York cities — Rochester and its ties to Frederick Douglass, Auburn and its link to Harriet Tubman — Oneonta and nearby communities were along the routes escaped slaves took toward freedom in the North.

"If our route did not exist," said Matthews, who has done extensive work on the subject, "it

would have prevented a lot of African-Americans from getting into the bigger areas."

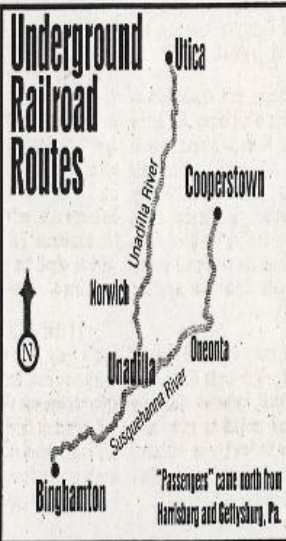
Underground route

Matthews said the Underground Railroad took two key routes locally — one east along the Susquehanna River, the other north up the Unadilla River.

He said many escaped slaves crossed the Mason-Dixon line from Maryland into Pennsylvania, near Gettysburg. Some headed to Harrisburg and up the Susquehanna to Binghamton before travel-

ing east along the river to settle in places such as Unadilla, Oneonta and Cooperstown, or go farther east toward Albany.

Others, Matthews said, left the Susquehanna where it meets the Unadilla River near Sidney. They would head north along the Unadilla and eventually reach Utica, where noted central New York abolitionist Gerrit Smith would offer help.



Matthews, who's creating a repository at Hartwick College for information on the Underground Railroad and the U.S. Colored Troops who fought during the Civil War, hopes to compile enough detail to have the Oneonta area included in a proposed national system commemorating the Underground Railroad.

The history of that local route,

and the abolition movement in this area in general, is still hidden partly by the shadows cast during that time.

Early abolitionism

Little evidence exists of the abolition movement before New York state's emancipation in the late 1820s. But evidence does exist of lively debate in the Cooperstown area in 1827 about what to do with the now-freed slaves.

Hayden Waters, a black abolitionist from Middlefield, was a

driving force behind much of the debate. He delivered a keynote speech at a July 5, 1827, celebration in Cooperstown noting what was called the "glorious emancipation" and headed other events to discuss the post-emancipation situation, as a public notice he published in the Sept. 27, 1830, edition of the *Freemans Journal* indicated.

See Abolition on Page 8



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

SUNY Oneonta: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR & USCT



**Source:** USCTI & ASFD

SUNY Oneonta, Morris Hall, 1998

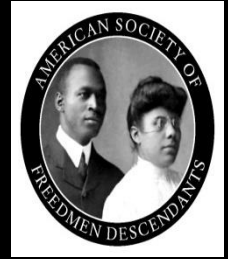
Founding Members: (top) Darlene Colon, Harry Bradshaw Matthews; (middle) David A. Anderson, Ruth Anderson, Cyndee Pattison, Shirley Schneider Houck; (front) Ruth Hodge and Marcus Hodge; (side) Harry Bradshaw Matthews and Pamela L. Matthews





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Hartwick College: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR & USCT



**Source:** Hartwick College, Bresee Hall, 1998

Founding Members: (top) Stanton F. Biddle, Elizabeth J. Hegyesi, George M. Sands IV, Edythe Ann Quinn; (middle) George M. Sands, Mary M. Marshall, Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Charles Edward Terry; (front) Shirley Schneider Houck., Dianne Ciccone, John Gourdin.



# The Underground Railroad Definitions

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It was a series of actions in which individuals risked their lives to help enslaved Africans escape to freedom. There were specific aspects of the process:

Conductor=person leading the escaped slave

Station=a place where an escaped slave was taken

Station Agent=person receiving the runaway slave

Freight=transport of an escaped slave

Freight agent=person awaiting the arrival of freight

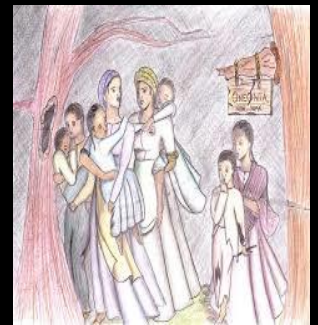
Hardware=a male in transport

Dry Goods= a female in transport

Vigilance Committee=persons who publicly declared their support for runaways

Financial Contributor=person who contribute funds

Legal Defenders=lawyer who defended runaways, conductors and/or agents



NOTE: Estimated that between 1810-1850 approximately 100,000 enslaved persons escaped primarily to Canada and were worth 30 million dollars. While Canada was a Northern destination, the Caribbean and the West Indies , including Nassau, Bahamas, Jamaica, and Haiti, were major Southern points where runaways went. Enslaved persons continued escaping into the early 1860s, for example to Oneonta, New York.



# *Colored American* Newspaper

## Connected Otsego County, NY, to the Underground Railroad

### THE COLORED AMERICAN.

CHARLES B. RAY, PHILIP A. BELL, NEW YORK; STEPHEN H. GLOUCESTER, PHILADELPHIA - Proprietors.  
New York & Philadelphia, Saturday, September 1, 1838.

From the Friend of Man.  
The voice of ten Presbyteries

In poking over the reports on the state of religion, given by those presbyteries which were presented in the General Assembly, after the adjournment from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian church, I notice the following testimonies on the subject of slavery:

Otsego. — There are also hearts that feel, and tongues that speak, and hands that act in behalf of the oppressed.

Oneida. — The reports of the several churches present the observance of the monthly concert for the abolition of slavery. While there is a diversity of sentiment among us as to the operations of the anti-slavery society, we will record with gratitude every effort for the abolition of slavery.

Geneva. — The slavery question is regarded with interest by all; while some sympathise with the anti-slavery society, and some with the colonization.

Delaware. — Sympathy for the oppressed, and more unqualified disapprobation of the oppressors, and attention to moral purity, prevail.

Ontario. — Clear and more enlarged view of the rights of a man, without respect to color, are prevailing.

Buffalo. — The cause of temperance, of abolition, and of general benevolence is well sustained.

ALTON. — The subject of slavery is undergoing a discussion which must result in its removal from the bounds of this presbytery. (A number of slaves are held within the bounds of the presbytery of Alton.)  
J.R.J.



“Otsego — There are also hearts that feel, and tongues that speak, and hands that act in behalf of the oppressed.”

**Source:** The Matthews Collection, a transcription of the *Colored American* article of September 1, 1838, placed Otsego County, NY, as an abolitionist and Underground Railroad site, as determined by Harry Bradshaw Matthews' interpretation of the notation regarding the County.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Rev. John Lawyer established the *Chenango Free Democrat*, 1849



**Source:** *Chenango Free Democrat*, 1849, established by Rev. John Lawyer of the Franckean Synod. A rare issue is preserved in the Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.

The newspaper operated out of Norwich, Chenango County, and Bainbridge, Otsego County. Lawyer served as its editor. The motto of the anti-slavery publication was “Free Soil – Free Labor – Free Speech – Free Men.”

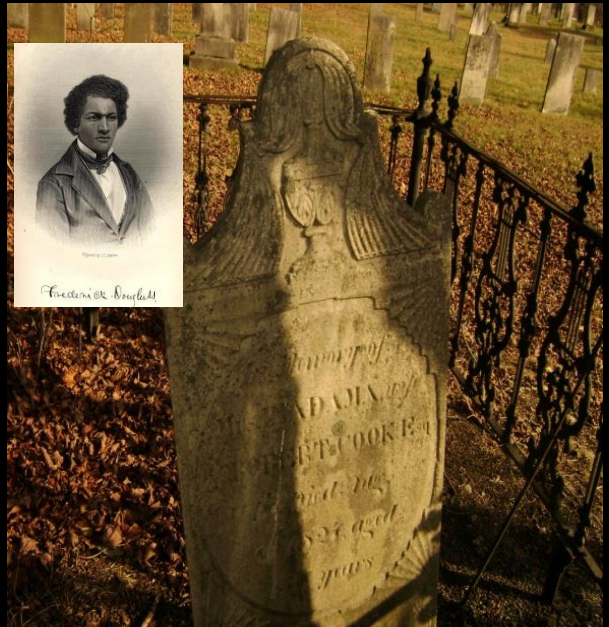




# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

**Eliakim Reed Ford, Oneonta, Free Soil Party Member, 1848; Robert S. Cook, West Oneonta, Connection to the UGRR 1853**

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Eliakim Reed Ford, Oneonta, was noted as a delegate to the Free Soil Convention in 1848. A picture of his home is shared above. Robert S. Cook of West Oneonta was a financial contributor, e.g., stockholder of the Underground Railroad. Cook was identified in Frederick Douglass' Newspaper in 1853. His gravesite is above.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

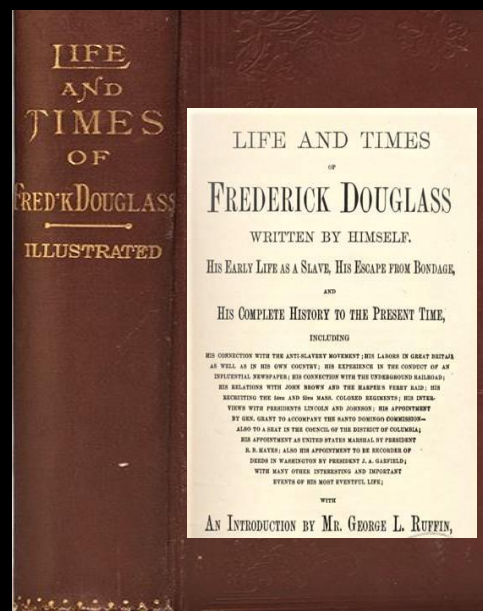
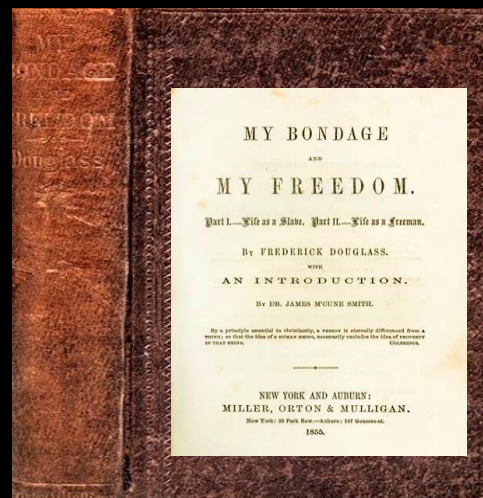
## SUNY Oneonta: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR



**Source:** *My Bondage and My Freedom*, Frederick Douglass, 1855; a reproduction copy is at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library. A rare first edition is in the Matthews Collection.

**Source:** *Life and times of Frederick Douglass*, Frederick Douglass, 1882; reproduction copies are at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library, and at Hartwick College, Stevens-German Library. A rare first edition is in the Matthews Collection.

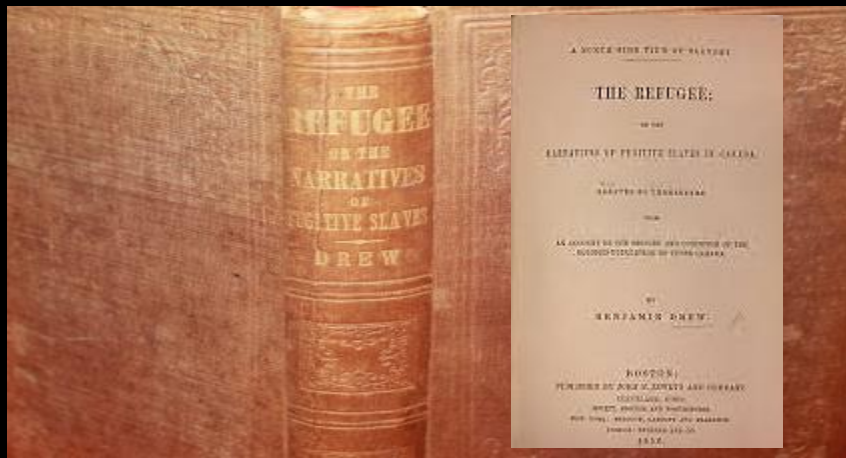
“In 1848 it was my privilege to attend, and in some measure to participate in the famous Free-Soil Convention held in Buffalo, New York. It was a vast and variegated assemblage, composed of persons from all sections of the North, and may be said to have formed a new departure in the history of forces organized to resist the growing and aggressive demands of slavery and the slave powers.”





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

SUNY Oneonta: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR



**Source:** *The Refugee or the Narratives of Fugitive Slaves in Canada*, Benjamin Drew, 1856; a reproduction copy is at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library. A rare first edition is in the Matthews Collection.

1837 – (Rev.) Alexander Hemsley, after escaping from Queen Anne’s County, MD settled in Evesham, NJ until 1836. A year later, he fled for life to Otsego County, NY. Here he was reunited with his family before continuing his journey to St. Catherines, Canada West.

“... and thought I had better leave for the North, which I did. I traveled some two hundred miles, most of the way on foot into Otsego County, N. Y., where I gave out through fatigue. I was sick when I got there. Here I was joined by my wife and children. I remained here until navigation opened,—we were forty miles from the canal at Utica...”



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## SUNY Oneonta: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR

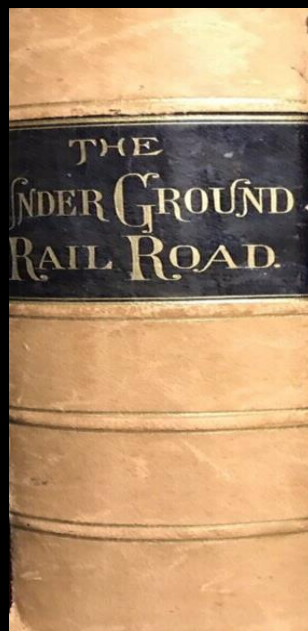
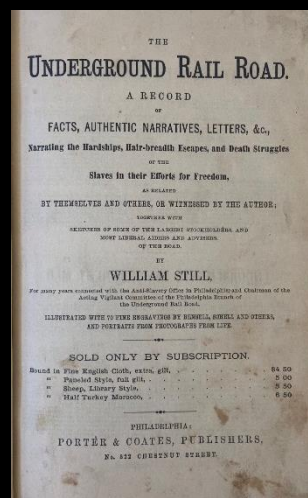


**Source:** *The Underground Railroad*, William Still, 1872, 1878; a facsimile copy is at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library. A 1872 edition is in the Fenimore Art Museum's Research Library. A 1878 edition is in the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.

Numerous case studies of individual freedom seekers are preserved in this text, including some regarding slave escapes to locales along the Susquehanna River. Written 16 years after *The Refugee or the Narratives of Fugitive Slaves in Canada* by Benjamin Drew, 1856, the book by Still provides an added, yet rare, first phase of Rev. Alexander Hemsley's freedom journey. It is recorded in the story of the UGRR conductor and advocate in New Jersey, Thomas Shipley. He wrote in his memorandum book of 1835:

"I spent eighteen days in the trial of A. Hemsley, and his wife, Nancy, and her three children, arrested at Mount Holly, the husband claimed by Goldsborough Price, executor of Isaac Boggs, of Queen Anne's County, Maryland ..."

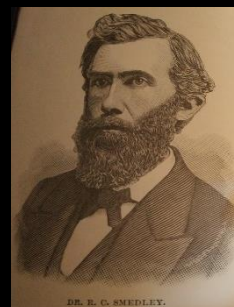
Hemsley gained temporary reprieve, but had to go through a State Supreme Court case to gain his freedom. But, it was not enough. The second phase of Helmsley's freedom journey continued with him fleeing to Otsego County, as documented by Harry Bradshaw Matthews.





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## SUNY Oneonta: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR

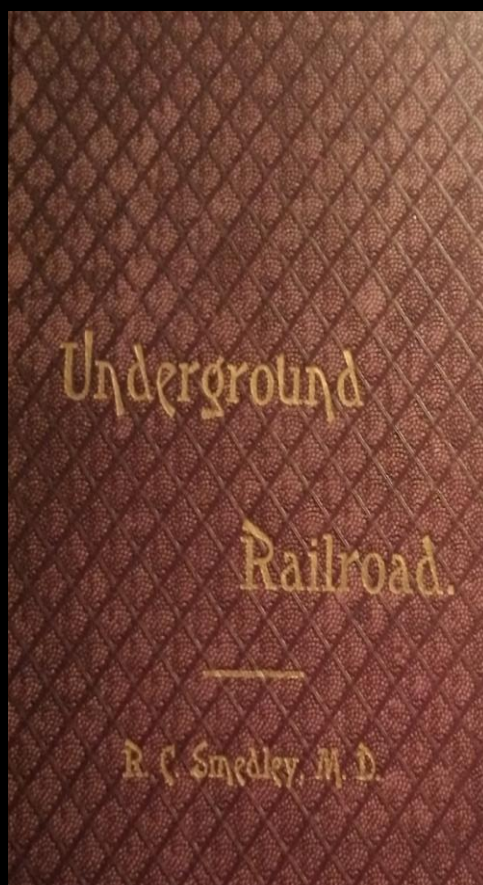


**Source:** *History of the Underground Railroad*, R.C. Smedley, 1883; a facsimile copy is at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library. A rare first edition is in the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.

**UGRR in PA** - While (Rev.) Alexander Hemsley was not mentioned in the book, the publication did prove valuable, indicating that:

“The two first stations nearest the Maryland line were Gettysburg and York. When ten or twenty fugitives arrived in a gang at Gettysburg, half were sent to Harrisburg and half to Columbia.”

It is reasonable to assert that some of the freedom seekers sent to Harrisburg were sent farther on the Susquehanna River to more northern points in Pennsylvania and Upstate New York.





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

SUNY Oneonta: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR

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**Source:** *The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom*, Wilbur H. Siebert, 1898; a facsimile copy is at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library. A rare first edition is in the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.

**UGRR** - While (Rev.) Alexander Hemsley was not mentioned in the book, the publication did prove valuable, providing descriptions of numerous freedom seekers, conductors, a national map of UGRR stations, and the names of UGRR operators in the various counties of each appropriate state. Otsego County did not appear on the listings for New York.



# The SUNY Oneonta Connection to the Underground Railroad

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**Source:** The Matthews Collection, copyright art depiction of the 1860 slave escape to Oneonta, NY; artwork commissioned by Harry Bradshaw Matthews with Jessica Perez, art illustrator, 2012, is based upon the *Herald* newspaper of 1860, which is preserved at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library.



# The SUNY Oneonta Connection to the Underground Railroad

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## *The Oneonta Herald.*

ESTABLISHED 1853 ONEONTA, OTSEGO COUNTY, N.Y.

AUGUST 1, 1860

UGRR—A family of eight fugitive slaves, a mother with six children, and a half sister were passed from this place, on the underground railroad toward Canada (where, thank God, there is no slavery) on Thursday night last, by some of our philanthropist citizens. They arrived in this village, on the Saturday before, completely destitute and weary, having traveled from Virginia. We are glad we have in our vicinity persons who feel it their duty to be benevolent to all classes of humanity. — After stopping here for a few days, and being clothed up and the “*needful*” furnished, they went on their way rejoicing, and leaving their blessing on the good people of Oneonta.

What an idea! Persons escaping from a country, which boasts of freedom and free institutions, to a land ruled by a Monarch, in order that they may enjoy their freedom. Shame to America!

=====

**Source:** SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library, Microfilm Room.

Located and Transcribed by Harry Bradshaw Matthews



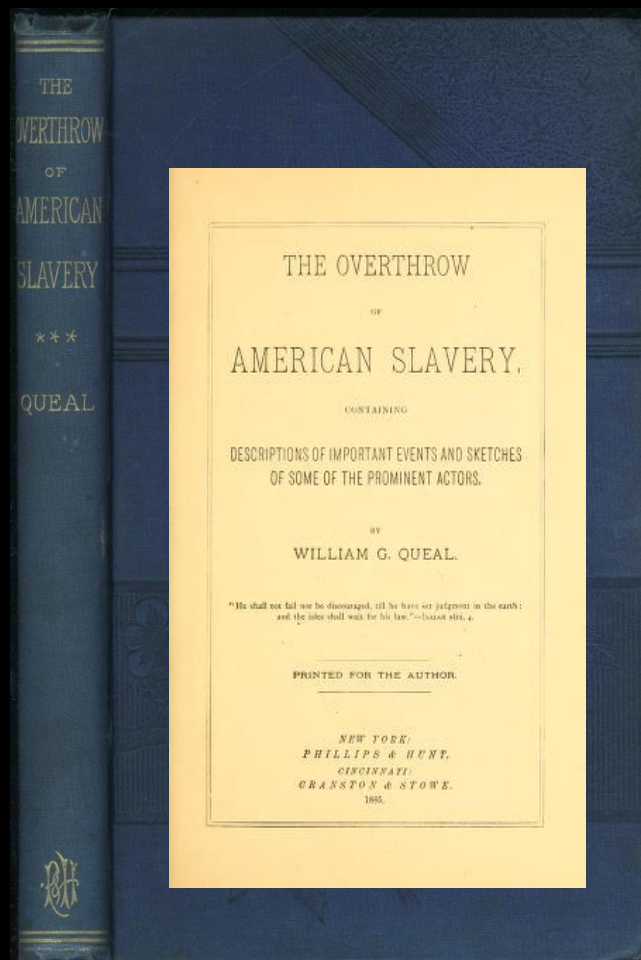
# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Matthews Collection: Preservation of the UGRR

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**Source:** *The Overthrow of American Slavery*, William G. Queal, 1885. A rare first edition is in the Fenimore Art Museum's Research Library. Similarly, a rare first edition is in the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.

This classic book of poetry identifies numerous local sites in Otsego County that were engaged in the Freedom Journey along the Susquehanna River. The author was born in Worcester, Otsego County.





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

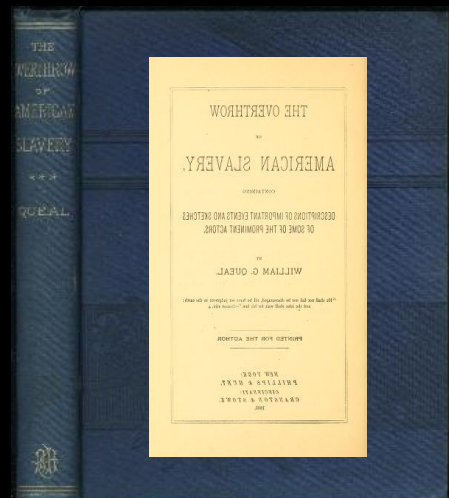
## Matthews Collection: Preservation of the UGRR

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Fair Susquehanna! shining stream,  
From mountains, springs, ‘  
mid wooded heights,  
From silver lakes, through  
brooks and rills,  
Fed by the summer’s falling  
showers,  
And winter’s stormy drifting  
snows;  
Thy waters aye, in beauty flow.  
A perished race bequeathed thy  
name,  
And left, on all the shining  
streams  
That pour their waters through  
thy vale,  
Memorials of their ancient sway.

Otsego, sleeping ‘neath its shades;  
Schenevus, though whose mountain  
paths  
The iron horse first found its way,  
To drink the waters at their font;  
Otego, crisp and short the sound,  
And Unadilla, rolling name,  
Like Indian boat rocked by its  
waves;  
Chenango, open, smooth, and fair,  
As the rich vale through which it  
flows.

*by William G. Queal, 1885*





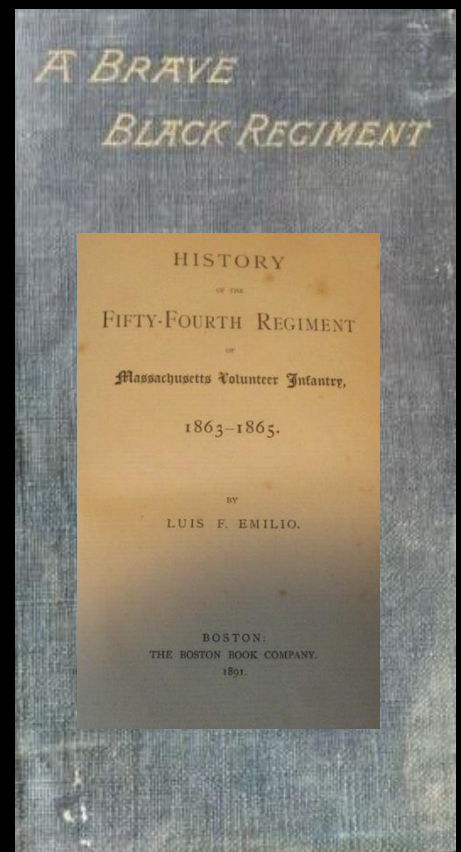
# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## SUNY Oneonta: Facility for the Preservation of the USCT

**Source:** *A Brave Black Regiment*, Luis F. Emilio, 1891, 1894; a facsimile copy is at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library. A rare 1891 edition is at the Fenimore Art Museum's Research Library. A rare 1894 edition is in the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.

The USCT were comprised of 200,000 black men, many of whom were freedom seekers who enlisted in the Union forces, as well as state regiments, such as the Massachusetts 54th Colored Regiment. They were led primarily by 7,000 white officers. Benjamin Derrick, Co. F of MA 54th, served from Cooperstown, Otsego County, while Stephen A. Swails had been credited to Elmira and Cooperstown as an African American officer. Also of note was that two of Frederick Douglass' sons served with the 54th regiment.

Represented among the USCT soldiers were men from locales along the Susquehanna River. Also among the ranks were men from throughout the Caribbean and West Indies, as well as Canada. In addition were some Native Americans and East Indians.





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Matthews' Writings Honoring USCT and Underground Railroad

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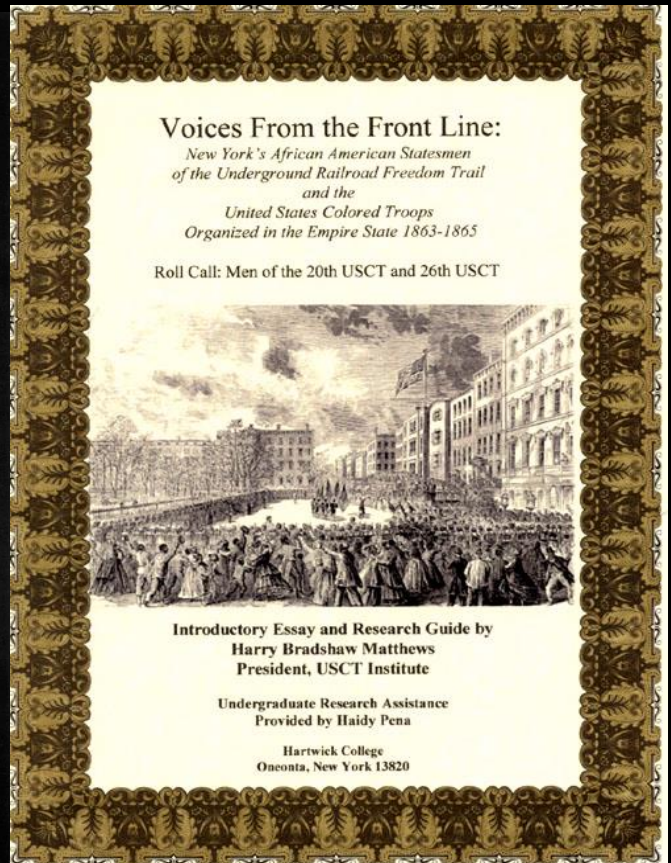


### Honoring New York's Forgotten Soldiers: AFRICAN AMERICANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

with Research Examples A - Z  
A Case Study in Historiographic Genealogy

By  
Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Associate Dean  
Sondhi Limthongkul Center for Interdependence  
and Director of U.S. Pluralism Programs  
Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York 13820

1998

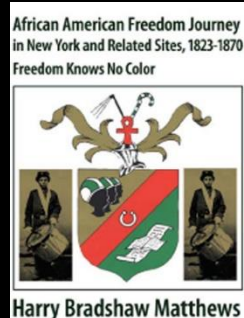


**Source:** First editions of *Honoring New York's Forgotten Soldiers*, 1998, and *Voices from the Front Line*, 2000, by Harry Bradshaw Matthews, are preserved at SUNY Oneonta, Hartwick College, Fenimore Art Museum, and the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Points of Distinction: Matthews and the USCT Institute



**2003** – Congressional Black Caucus Veterans' Brain Trust Award was presented to Harry Bradshaw Matthews and the USCT Institute for exemplary national and community service on behalf of African American veterans. The awards ceremony was established by General Colin Powell in 1990.

**2004** – The Maryland House of Delegates and the Maryland Senate each presented Harry Bradshaw Matthews and the USCT Institute with a proclamation honoring historical and genealogical research enhancing the understanding of African life in America.

**2006** – Isaac Newton Arnold's personal copies of *History of Hartwick Seminary* were acquired for the privately owned Matthews Collection by Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Associate Dean at Hartwick College, and founding president of the United State Colored Troops Institute.

**2006** – Governor George Pataki issued a proclamation naming Isaac Newton Arnold Day in the Empire State.

**2006** - New York State Commissioner of Education appointed Harry Bradshaw Matthews to the Advisory Council for State and Local History, in March.

**2008** – *Freedom Journey in New York and Related Sites 1827 – 1870* was written by Harry Bradshaw Matthews.

**Source:** A first edition of this book by Harry Bradshaw Matthews is preserved at SUNY Oneonta, Hartwick College, and Fenimore.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Proclamations and other Honors: Congressional Black Caucus Recognition, 2003



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

**CORRINE BROWN**  
3D DISTRICT, FLORIDA

September 3, 2003

Mr. Harry Bradshaw Matthews  
Associate Dean  
US Colored Troops Institute,  
Hartwick College Jager 4th Floor  
Oneonta, NY 13820

Dear Mr. Matthews:

Congratulations on your selection as a recipient of a 2003 Congressional Black Caucus Veterans' Braintrust Award. As co-chairs of the Braintrust, we would like to bestow on you this award in recognition of your exemplary national and community service on behalf of this country's African American veterans.

We would be honored if you could join us for this historic event, which will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on September 26, 2003 in the Washington Terrace Hotel located at 1515 Rhode Island Avenue (202-232-7000). General Colin Powell established the awards ceremony in 1990, in recognition of outstanding national commitment to black veterans. In later years, members of the Veterans' Braintrust added the criteria of community service to further validate the role and contributions made on behalf of veterans' interests. Over the past thirteen years, the Braintrust has publicly acknowledged and recognized more than 200 outstanding veterans, veteran supporters, and organizations from around the country.

We would also be pleased if you could join us for the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans' Braintrust scheduled for September 26, 2003, at the New Washington Convention Center located at 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW (800-368-9000). The Braintrust will be held in Room 146 C and the event will take place from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Again, congratulations from the members of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans' Braintrust for the tremendous job you have done for America's Veterans. Please confirm your attendance at the award ceremony by calling Nick Martiniello at (202) 226-0165.

With kindest regards, we remain

Sincerely,

*Corrine Brown*  
Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

*Sanford Bishop*  
Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress



**Veterans Braintrust Award**

On behalf of the people of the Third Congressional District of Florida and the Second Congressional District of Georgia, it is our great honor to present this certificate to

**U.S. Colored Troops Institute**

On this twenty-sixth day of September, in the year two-thousand and three, we salute the valued contributions of advocates for African American veterans. Today we pay tribute to efforts made to aid our Nation's finest after they leave the Armed Forces. We are proud to present this awardee with this Veterans Braintrust Award as a symbol of appreciation and gratitude for service to America's veterans.

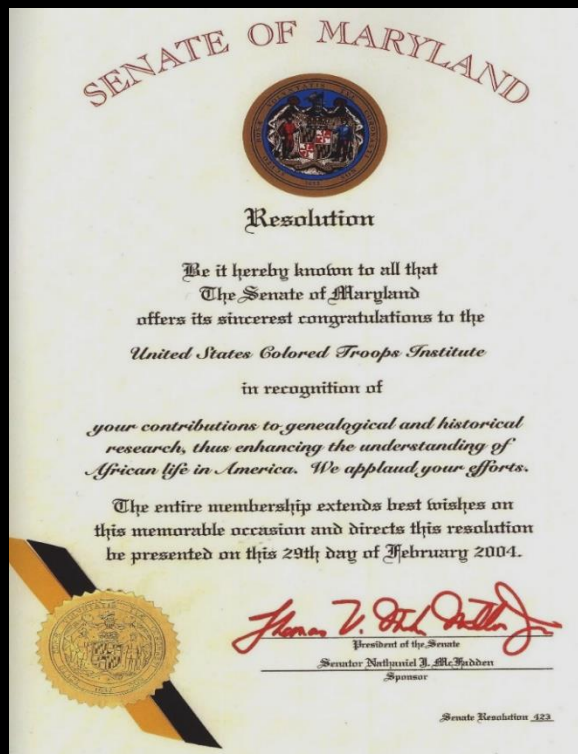
*Corrine Brown*  
Corrine Brown, FL03  
Member of Congress

*Sanford Bishop, Jr.*  
Sanford Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress






# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Proclamations and other Honors, 1998, 2004





## The Gravesite Salute to the United States Colored Troops

**Harry Bradshaw Matthews**  
*Associate Dean, Hartwick College*  
*Founding President, USCT Institute*

**Gettysburg National Cemetery**  
*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*

**145th Dedication Day to the Gettysburg Address**  
*November 19, 2008*

Here we stand on sacred ground to remember two fallen heroes, ordinary men, who reacted to a cause by risking their lives for an idea that they could not touch or feel in the flesh, but one that they could embrace within their shared fantasy. Their idea or fantasy became one of the greatest gifts to humanity. The fantasy was freedom. The fantasy was justice; and the fantasy was equality.

What is so powerful about the trinity — freedom, justice, and equality — is that it should know no color. What is significant is that men devoted their lives to the trinity nearly 145 years ago in a war that was destined to split a nation.

On the hot day of July 11, 1863 — less than a week after the terrible battle at Gettysburg — black men and their white supporters, numbering together more than 5,000, met at National Hall on Market Street in Philadelphia. A call to arms was issued to the darker brethren by Judge Wm. D. Kelly, Anna E. Dickinson, Frederick Douglass and others.)

Judge Kelly exclaimed, "After two hundred years of unbroken oppression, Providence has opened the way of the black to prove his manhood, and to march to honor and glory. I shall ask you to move on to the destiny which awaits your race. Colored men of Pennsylvania, I ask you to carry at the head of your troops the flag, which abolished slavery before any other State in the nation, and to carry that flag wherever rebellion rises its head and to prove that you are more than a master for the slaveholders of the South.")

A black and white portrait of an elderly man with a full, dark beard and mustache. He is wearing round-rimmed spectacles. He is dressed in a dark suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark tie. The background is a mottled, light gray. The man is looking slightly to the left of the camera.

Cassus Names	Must of Out
William H. De	8/25/83
Thomas C	.....
Jona Bu	1/10/85
Issac Ma	.....
Samuel A	.....
George Pi	10/0/85
David Rol	10/0/85
Levi Roge	on roll
Greenbery	18/6/85
John Stanton	.....
Samuel Butler	6/6/85
Flaming Dea	3/20/84
Lindsay Jones	.....
Richard Meyer	.....
Alexander Spri	8/22/85

# Whence They Came: The Families of United States Colored Troops in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1815-1995: A Case Study in Historiographic Genealogy

by [Harry Bradshaw Matthews](#)



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Remembrance of the USCT



2008 –Harry Bradshaw Matthews invited to present “A Salute to the USCT” at the 145th commemorative of Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

2008 – The Library of Congress provided Harry Bradshaw Matthews with copyright to *A Tribute to Harriet Tubman: A Reprint of the Article from the Anglo-African, August 29, 1863.*

2009- USCT Institute at Hartwick College recognized by the Abraham Lincoln National Bicentennial Commission.

2010 – Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project and the USCT Institute designated as the official New York State delegation at the 150th commemorative of the USCT Grand Review, Harrisburg, PA.





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

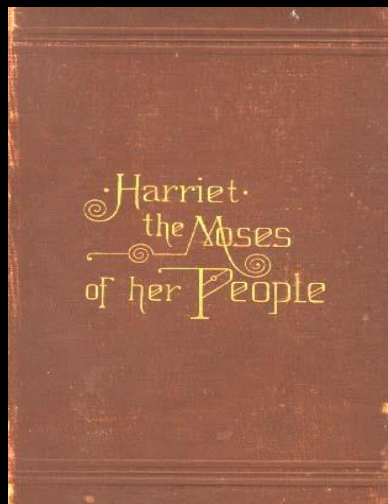
## Remembrance of Harriet Tubman



**Source:** First edition of *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*, Sarah Bradford 1869, is preserved at Fenimore Art Museum and the Farmers' Museum, Research Library. A first edition is also in the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.



**Source:** *Harriet Tubman: The Moses of Her People*, Sarah H. Bradford, 1886; a facsimile copy is at SUNY Oneonta, James M. Milne Library. A rare first edition is preserved at Fenimore Art Museum and the Farmers' Museum, Research Library. An 1897 edition is also in the privately owned Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics.





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Remembrance of Harriet Tubman



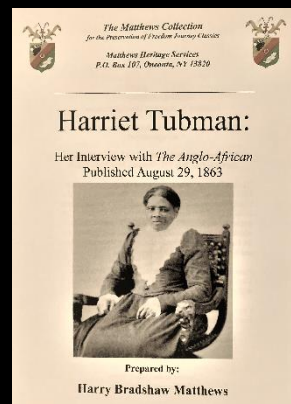
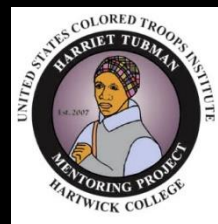
**Source:** *Perspectives on History*, American Historical Association, Edythe Ann Quinn, 2009, identified the Harriet Tubman Mentors of the USCT Institute at Hartwick College as one of three national models for the engagement of Black and Hispanic students in the study of history.

**Source:** “Harriet Tubman,” Lillie B. Chace Wyman, March 1896, *New England Magazine*. An original issue of the article is in the Matthews Collection.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

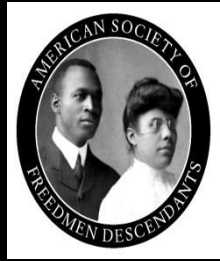
## Remembrance of Harriet Tubman





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

USCT Institute: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR 2010



**Source:** Members, USCTI & ASFD Libations at Cato Freedom's Grave Site, Honoring the African American Revolutionary War Soldier & Family, 2010

Harry Bradshaw Matthews and members of the Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project documented the truth of Cato Freedom.





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Library of Congress Recognition, 2010





**USCT Civil War Digest**  
HARTWICK COLLEGE  
ISSN: 1947-7384



**HARTWICK COLLEGE**  
1827

Newsletter  
Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY 13820  
Vol. 16 No. 1, June 2014

United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research

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Dorothy Collins, Vice President,  
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Stanford F. Biddle, President Emeritus,  
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D. Gail Sanders, Nantux, Bahamas  
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**Executive Director and Editor**  
Harry Bradshaw Matthews

**USCT Civil War Digest**  
This newsletter is published with editing and graphics support of the Office of Communications at Hartwick College. The publication is produced twice a year, spring and fall, for the membership of the USCT Institute and for other select distribution.

Send your comments to:  
Harry Bradshaw Matthews  
Associate Dean/USCT Institute  
U.S. Parkland Center  
Bessie Hall  
Hartwick College  
Oneonta, New York 13820  
matthews@hartwick.edu  
607-431-4428

### An Academic Year of Tributes to USCT

The 2013-14 academic year will be remembered for extraordinary tributes to the United States Colored Troops of the Civil War. It commemorates the 150th anniversary, when important actions by federal and state governments resulted in the eventual enlistment of 200,000 black soldiers and 7,000 white officers who comprised the Bureau of the United States Colored Troops.

**MA TRIBUTE TO THE USCT**

On January 26, 1863 Massachusetts became the first Northern state authorized by the Union War Department to recruit a regiment of black soldiers. It was designated as the Massachusetts 54th Colored Regiment. Leading statesmen, such as Frederick Douglass of Rochester and Jeremiah Logan of Syracuse, were actively encouraging black men to rush to arms during March. There was also similar encouragement from other New Yorkers, such as the Rev. Henry Highland Garnet of New York City and the wealthy abolitionist Gerrit Smith of Poughkeepsie.

In the March 14, 1863 issue of the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, Frederick Douglass' words were boldly expressed:



Robert F. Douglass, *Senior, Smithsonian Institution*  
Hart, South, Illustrated by Lord Ward, 1947  
Caption: The "Minister's Column"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



**USCT Civil War Digest**  
HARTWICK COLLEGE  
ISSN: 1947-7384



**HARTWICK COLLEGE**  
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Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY 13820  
Vol. 16 No. 2, December 2013

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607-431-4428

### Harriet Tubman and Abraham Lincoln: Agents for Freedom and Equality

*As the 2013 African American History Month commemorations overlap the one hundredth anniversary of Harriet Tubman's date of death, let us be mindful that her heroics were not for personal gain, but to empower unjust American slaves that forced upon the free legal status of black people in America, with the black family unit targeted for dispersal.*



Harriet Bradshaw Matthews, USCT Fellow, President and Contributing Editor, *Tubman* magazine reports Tubman took her importance from the divine system of bondage and used it to justify her seeking that enslaved persons had the God-given right to freedom and the protection of their families. Tubman's escape from slavery in 1849 provided evidence of what enslaved persons in America had to do in order to gain freedom. She was one of approximately 100,000 runaway slaves between 1810-1850, yet no record distinction because she risked her life, during a time 17 escapees back into slave states to lead her family members, as well as others, in safety to the North. Her adventures were real and credible, since the vast majority of the 4-5 million black people in America during 1860 were enslaved.

with only 500,000 with a semi-freedom status. Contrary to popular belief, more free black men and women resided within the Southern states in 1860 than in the North.

Tubman's personal journey intersected with that of President Abraham Lincoln's. The President, after driving to preserve the Union at all costs, eventually moved allowing for the construction of slavery. He later changed his opinion after finally realizing that slavery was the real cause of the war.

Consequently, the President prepared himself to take positive action to support of the enslaved Americans, who collectively became known as President Lincoln's Emancipator.

Lincoln, however, did not believe in the equality between blacks and whites. He struggled with the idea that the two races would never be able to live peacefully together within this society. Tubman and Lincoln shared paths.

Continued on Page 2

**Source:** *USCT Civil War Digest*, the newsletter of the USCT Institute, established in April 1999 with Harry Bradshaw Matthews as editor. In 2010, the Library of Congress extended a journal serial number, ISSN: 1947-7384, as a reference for cultural organizations and libraries to use in acquiring copies of the publication. It was a response to requests by such groups who view the newsletter as significant for the historical and genealogical information in each issue.



**USCT CIVIL WAR Digest**  
HARTWICK COLLEGE  
ISSN: 1947-7384



**HARTWICK COLLEGE**  
1827

Newsletter  
United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research

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### USCTI Re-Activates American Society of Freedommen Descendants

Whereas the American Society of Freedommen Descendants (ASFD) was founded in 1947, it has since been dormant. The USCTI Re-Activates American Society of Freedommen Descendants (ASFD) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the history and heritage of the American Society of Freedommen Descendants. The ASFD is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the history and heritage of the American Society of Freedommen Descendants. The ASFD is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the history and heritage of the American Society of Freedommen Descendants.

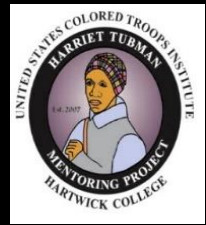


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# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

National Park Service Recognition, 2011

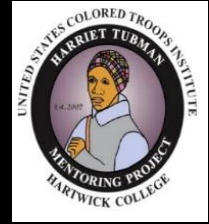


Harry Bradshaw Matthews, SUNY Oneonta class of 1974 and Founding President of the USCT Institute for Local History and Family Research at Hartwick College, was notified in 2011 by the National Park Service that the USCTI had been designated as a (research) facility of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Hartwick College: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR, 2011



**Source:** Hartwick College, Dewar Hall, 2011

Senior Fellows: USCTI & ASFD

Senior Fellows: Darlene Colon, Sylvia Cooke Martin, Madeline O. Scott, Ruth Perry Hodge, Sheri Jackson of the NPS Regional Representative for the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, Harry Bradshaw Matthews



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Timeline of Additional Recognitions



**2010** - Matthews named speaker at New York State Library in support of the traveling exhibit, “Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln’s Journey to Emancipation,” September 29.

**2010** - Matthews named keynote speaker for the USCT Grand Review honoring the 145th anniversary of the 1865 event held in Harrisburg, PA, November 4.

**2011** - National Park Service endorses the USCT Institute at Hartwick College as a (research) facility of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, May 26.

**2011** - USCT Institute hosted mini-conference affirming its link in the National Underground Network to Freedom, November.

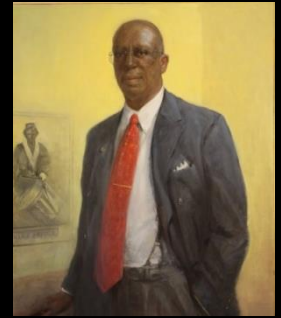
**2012** - *Syracuse Post-Standard* newspaper published an article by Harry Bradshaw Matthews, “Men to Arms,” as a contribution to the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, February 12.

**2013** - National Park Service invited Harry Bradshaw Matthews as a keynote speaker for the 150 Anniversary Tribute to the 54th Massachusetts Colored Regiment and Augustus Saint-Gaudens at its National Historic Site, New Hampshire, August 10.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Timeline of Additional Recognitions



[https://www.syracuse.com/opinion/2012/02/harry\\_bradshaw\\_matthews.html](https://www.syracuse.com/opinion/2012/02/harry_bradshaw_matthews.html)

Black New Yorkers answered the call to end slavery by fighting for ...

Feb 12, 2012 ... Harry Bradshaw Matthews says the heroics of black soldiers requires placing ... of Syracuse, called "Men to Arms" to show their manhood by ...

[https://www.syracuse.com/opinion/2012/02/a\\_freedom\\_war\\_frederick\\_douglass.html](https://www.syracuse.com/opinion/2012/02/a_freedom_war_frederick_douglass.html)

A Freedom War: Frederick Douglass and the second American

...  
Feb 19, 2012 ... [syracuse.com](http://www.syracuse.com) | The Post-Standard. By Milton C. Sernett, ... Lewis Henry Douglass, son of Frederick Douglass ... Harry Bradshaw Matthews.



Courtesy: The Matthews Collection, "The True Defenders of the Constitution," an illustration by James Walker for Harper's Weekly, Nov. 11, 1865, depicts white and black Union soldiers dead on the battlefield.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

National Park Service Recognition, 2013



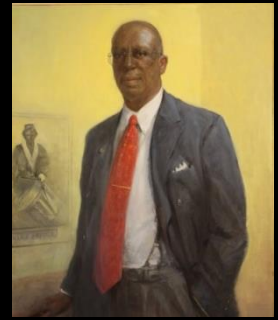
Harry Bradshaw Matthews, SUNY Oneonta class of 1974 and Associate Dean at Hartwick College, was invited as a speaker, along with Professor David Blight of Yale University, at the 150th Commemoration for the Massachusetts 54th Colored Regiment, Col. Robert Shaw, and Augustus Saint-Gaudens at the National Historic Site, New Hampshire. The event was included within the National Park Service' publication, *From the Civil War to Civil Rights*.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Timeline of Additional Recognitions

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**2013** - Harry Bradshaw Matthews invited to speak at the Harriet Tubman Conference, November.

**2014** - The Associate Press featured Harry Bradshaw Matthews at NYS Military Museum, February.

**2015** - Buxton National Historic Site (Ontario) and Harriet Tubman Institute at York University (Toronto) invited Harry Bradshaw Matthews to speak, on September 4.

**2015** - Northern Michigan University selected Harry Bradshaw Matthews as the King-Parks-Chavez Distinguished Lecturer for its Unity Conference.

**2016** - The Associated Press featured Harry Bradshaw Matthews in the article, "Local Historians Preserve Legacy of Black Revolutionary War Soldier" (Cato Freedom), April 5.

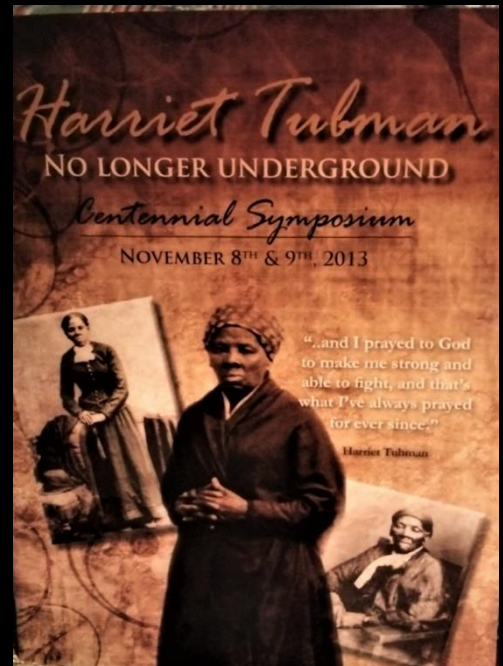
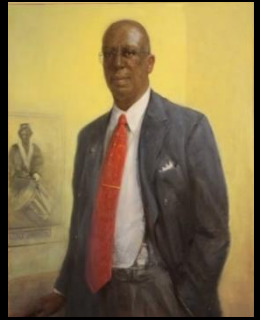
**2016** - African Americans Veterans of Western, New York, invited Harry Bradshaw Matthews as its Keynote Speaker for the unveiling of a special exhibit honoring deceased African American veterans of Western, New York.

**2016** - Hartwick College Alumni Board selected Harry Bradshaw Matthews as the College's Employee of the Year.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Timeline of Additional Recognitions  
Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Speaker, 2013



<https://www.accessible-archives.com/2013/10/harriet-tubman-longer-underground>

[Harriet Tubman: No Longer Underground - Accessible Archives](#)

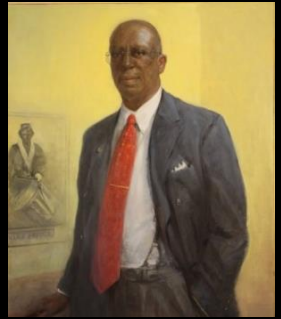
Oct 17, 2013 ... November 7-9, 2013, there'll be a celebratory Harriet Tubman ... Underground No More, all presentations taking place on the Auburn ...



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Timeline of Additional Recognitions, 2015

### Buxton, Ontario, Canada, Quest Speaker



**THE HARRIET TUBMAN INSTITUTE**  
THE EMANCIPATOR AND AFRICAN CANADIAN

6 July, 2015

Dean Harry Bradshaw Matthews  
 Associate Dean, Office of Academic Affairs  
 President and Senior Fellow, USC/I Institute  
 U.S. Pluralism Center, 105 Bresler Hall  
 Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY 13820

Dear Dean Matthews,

On behalf of the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum and the "Spotlighting the Promoting African Canadian Experiences" (SPACE) Initiative which is part of the SSHRC-funded research project, "Slavery, Memory, Citizenship," based in the Harriet Tubman Institute at York University, I write to invite you to give a presentation highlighting the contributions of persons of African descent during the American Civil War at the Buxton Homecoming Symposium on Friday, 4 September, 2015, in Buxton, Ontario. This could take the form of a research presentation, or a personal reflection, or an information session about the work of the United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research.

One of the many threads in the complicated tapestry that chronicles the lives of Africans and their descendants in Canada is that which traces the histories and experiences of African Americans who, after their escape from enslavement, established communities in southern Ontario in the first half of the nineteenth century. Buxton was one such community and it has emerged as an important site in the preservation of African Canadian/African American history and connections which are celebrated every year in their annual Buxton Homecoming, this Labour Day Weekend (4-7 September, 2015) represents the 91<sup>st</sup> such Homecoming.

For the last seventeen years, the Buxton community has dedicated the first day of their four-day Homecoming celebration to a symposium which examines the histories and experiences of persons of African descent in Canada. In its capacity as a research unit which focuses on research about the wide variety of experiences of African peoples and their descendants, wherever they might be found, the Harriet Tubman Institute has been a supporter of this event for many years. As our relationship with Buxton has grown, we have been aware that this entirely volunteer effort was carrying a strain on the small organizing committee; after some discussion, in 2009 the Tubman Institute, through its SPACE Initiative, agreed to help the Buxton community to build on the previously successful symposia so that this aspect of the Homecoming would not be lost. It is in that capacity that I extend this invitation for you to give a presentation at the Buxton Homecoming Symposium, 2015. We think that adding your scholarship and voice to this day would make an important contribution.

321 York Lanes • York University • 4700 Keele Street  
 Toronto, Ontario, Canada • M3J 1P3 • 416-736-2100 • ext.3306  
[www.yorku.ca/tubman](http://www.yorku.ca/tubman) [info@yorku.ca](mailto:info@yorku.ca)

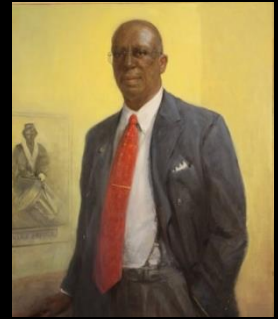
YORK  
 U





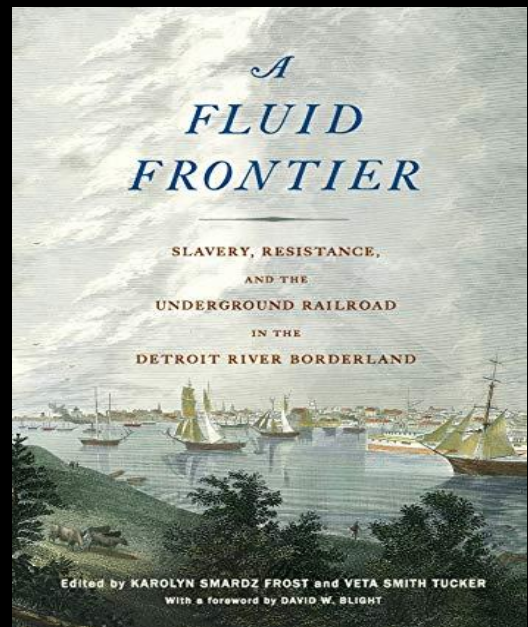
# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Timeline of Additional Recognitions  
Book Review, MHR, 2016



[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) › [Fluid-Frontier-Resistance](#) [A Fluid Frontier: Slavery, Resistance, and the Underground ...](#)

Feb 15, 2016 · -- Harry Bradshaw Matthews — Michigan Historical Review Published On: 2016-10-01 In this beautifully illustrated, deeply researched book, we recognize parallels with Detroit's



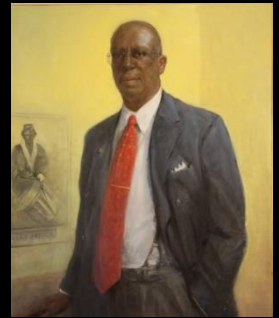
[A Fluid Frontier: Slavery, Resistance, and the Underground ...](#)

Feb 15, 2016 · In *A Fluid Frontier*, Canadian and American scholars collaborate to create a full-spectrum picture of the Detroit River region during the pivotal era of the Underground Railroad.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Timeline of Additional Recognitions



**2016** - Local Hero in Portraiture of Central New York was bestowed upon Harry Bradshaw Matthews with his portrait painted in 2016 by artist Janet Wentworth Erickson and Water Color by Xiaoyi Zeng.

**2017** - The June issue of the *USCT Civil War Digest* was publicized by the New York State Archives and Museum on its website.

**2018** - Harry Bradshaw Matthews was elected to a four-year term to the Board of Directors of the State University College at Oneonta Foundation, 2018-2022.

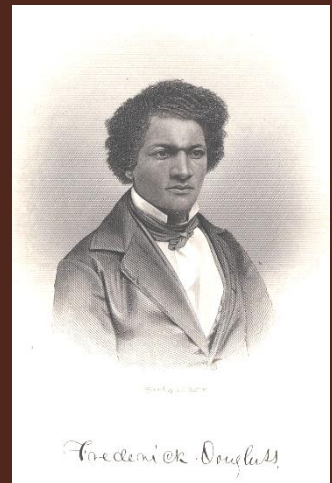
**2018** - Harry Bradshaw Matthews 2018 revised book , *Tracing the Family of Frederick Douglass 1818-1928: Genealogy of an Historic Role Model* was catalogued at the Library of Congress and Northwestern University. Copies are only made available by the author.

### ***Tracing the family of Frederick Douglass 1818-1928***

*Genealogy of an historic role model*

**Harry Bradshaw Matthews**

ISSN: 1947-7384

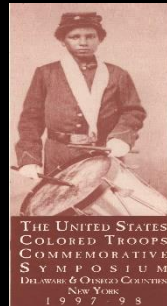
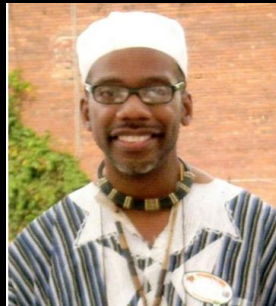


Harry Bradshaw Matthews,  
MA. Ed, R.G. Assisted by MAX  
Group Student Researchers:  
Centennial Avenue School &  
Roosevelt Jr. High



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Hartwick College: Facility for the Preservation of the UGRR



**Source:** (first picture) Agnes Kane Callum; (second picture) Roland Barksdale-Hall; (third picture) Pamela L. Matthews, John Gourdin, Dianne Ciccone, Sylvia Cooke Martin, Frank Smith of the U.S. Colored Troops Memorial in DC; (front) Cyndee Pattison, Angela Walton-Raji; (fourth picture) USCT Student Mini-Conference, 2018; (fifth picture) USCTI members, including Gerald Hunter, Sr., Native American USCT descendant from Long Island



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Timeline of Additional Recognitions UGRR, Nassau, The Bahamas, 2020



**Source:** *New York Almanack*, August 21, 2020 ... For more than two decades, the US Colored Troops Civil War Digest has been published with the support of Hartwick College and the membership of the United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research (USCTI).

You can view the [issue here](#).

The USCTI and USCT Civil War Digest both receive support from the privately-owned [Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics](#).



[listserv.nysed.gov](mailto:listserv.nysed.gov) > [cgi-bin](#) > [waUSCT CIVIL WAR DIGEST](#)  
- [New York State Education Department](#)

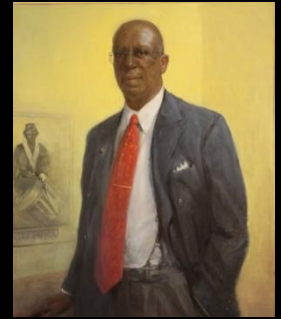
**Source:** *USCT Civil War Digest*, Vol. 22 No. 1, July 2020, was the first of two issues of the newsletter published by Harry Bradshaw Matthews after his retirement from Hartwick College. This issue documented the Underground Railroad connection in Nassau, The Bahamas through the historical transnational involvement of Alexander Thuey. He participated in the famed 1840 Colored Men's Convention. The title of the article is "African American History Preserved in the Bahamas: Reflects the African Diaspora."



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Timeline of Additional Recognitions  
Guest Speaker, 2020

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Gathering at the Crossroads: the Genealogy of  
Revolution to the 15th Amendment and Beyond



**Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Associate Dean (ret.)**

**Founding President, USCT Institute**

**President & Senior Fellow, American Society of Freedmen Descendants**

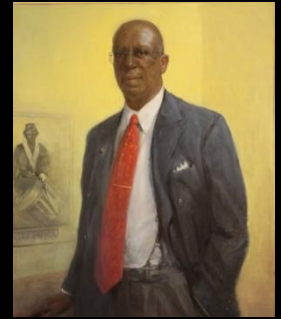
**Gathering at the Crossroads in Pennsylvania**

**August 12 and 26, 2020**



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Concluding Recognitions: Syracuse.com



<https://www.syracuse.com/news/2021/04/harry-bradshaw-matthews-on-leadership-know-yourself-then-walk-in-the-other-persons-shoes.html>

Harry Bradshaw Matthews on leadership: Know yourself, then walk ...

Apr 6, 2021 ... Harry Bradshaw Matthews, now retired from Hartwick College in Oneonta, combined his skills and interests in genealogy, family histories, and ...





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Concluding Recognitions: Syracuse.com  
Guest Speaker, 2021



Green South Estate National Historic Landmark  
504 Union Road Peterboro NY 11134 info@peterboronh.org  
www.peterboronh.org  
ENTER ALL DAY

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Peterboro EMANCIPATION DAY

Saturday, August 7, 2021

10:00 Anniversary Luncheon, Assembly, History, & Song  
by Friends and Peterboro Associates (announced the day)  
Proceeds to be donated to the Peterboro Historical Society

1:00 - Black & Gold Program presented by Karen Goodwin PhD  
2:30 - Supporting Reproductive Through Black Genealogical Research  
Presented by Barry Brundham Matthews  
3:00 Guided Tour of Estate with Thomas R. Dool PhD

Emancipation Day is limited to people from within New York  
with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities



Small group visitors: The Society will be  
collocated throughout the day to give the  
most interesting of the various buildings and  
to collect 1850-1900 letters, photographs and  
other contemporary evidence of Peterboro  
during slavery

(all on the Green will be open 10:30 am - 4:00 pm) 505-684-3131



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Concluding Recognitions: The Oneonta Daily Star.com, September 2, 2021



Julie Lewis | The Daily Star: Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Associate Dean and Director of the Office of Intercultural Affairs at Hartwick College, talks about a display of local African Americans from the Revolutionary War through Reconstruction at the U.S. Pluralism Center in Bresee Hall on Tuesday.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Concluding Recognitions: Historic Geneva

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### Historic Geneva

<https://historicgeneva.org> › *Blog*

Oct 1, 2021 — Handwritten enlistment record for Benjamin *Cleggett* ... *New York and Related Sites 1823-1870*” by *Harry Bradshaw Matthews* for fully printing ...

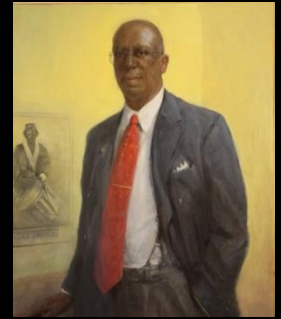
### Footnotes

[1] Many thanks to a book I stumbled across called “African American Freedom Journey in New York and Related Sites 1823-1870” by Harry Bradshaw Matthews for fully printing a number of letters written to Black run newspapers, and from where I retrieved Benjamin’s words. It contained an incredible amount of interesting information and provided access to writings by Black Genevans I would have never been able to see otherwise.



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Concluding Recognitions: The Daily Star



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### • [News about Salute To Colin Powell](#)

[bing.com/news](#)



### [Guest Commentary: A salute to Colin Powell](#)

[Colin Powell was a role model worthy of emulating as a proud man ... He was a proud citizen of the United ...](#)

[The Daily Star · 8h](#)

[A Salute to Gen. Colin Powell \(1937-2021\)](#)

[The Georgetownian · 10d](#)

[Hagel, Kerrey salute Colin Powell](#)

Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Associate Dean (ret.)

Founding President, USCT Institute

President & Senior Fellow, American Society of Freedmen Descendants

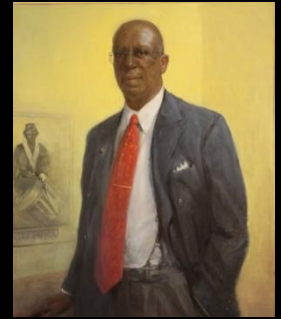
The Daily Star – Guest Commentary: A Salute to Colin Powell

October 2021



# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

Concluding Recognitions: Medium, 2022



## When Two States Counted All Their Black People

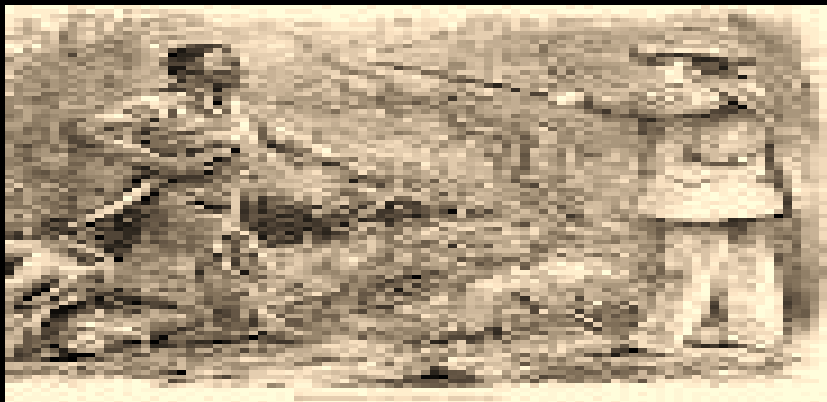
—  
Medium

<https://medium.com/black-history-month-365>

Aug 16, 2022 — ... so I settled on the State Library *Resource* Center. ... I stumbled upon research by *Harry Bradshaw Matthews*, a Dean at Hartwick College.

**When Two States Counted All Their Black People  
The Special Counts of**

**Black People After Nat Turner's  
Rebellion**





# Otsego County: Gateway to Freedom

## Concluding Recognitions



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA 2017**  
The Crisis in Black Education: Evoking the Wisdom of Heroes and Heroines

**Schedule of Events**

**African American Literature**  
Topic: HBCU, The Negro College Library  
February Book Display

**February 4: Video Clips of Civil Rights Leaders in Music & Verse**  
8-8:30 p.m. - Simon Lovings Brown, International Affairs Center, Hartwick College  
Professor Brian Madison and his wife, Dr. Madison

**February 10: Introducing Post-Punk O**  
8-9 p.m. - Simon Lovings Brown, International Affairs Center, Hartwick College  
Book: The Post-Punk O

**February 18: Heritage Leadership Training Seminar**  
8-9 p.m. - Simon Lovings Brown, International Affairs Center, Hartwick College  
Topic: Heritage Leadership Training Seminar

**February 25: A Tribute to Seniors**  
8-9 p.m. - Simon Lovings Brown, International Affairs Center, Hartwick College  
Topic: A Tribute to Seniors



**11th Annual Peterboro EMANCIPATION DAY**  
Saturday, August 7, 2021

10:00 AM: Breakfast, Assembly, History, & Singing  
11:00 AM: Peterboro Emancipation Day Luncheon  
1:00 PM: African Heritage presented by Susan Goodwin PhD  
2:30 PM: Supporting Businesses Through Black Entrepreneurship presented by Susan Goodwin PhD  
3:00 PM: Closed Tour of Peterboro with the Peterboro Historical Society

Emancipation Day is a day to remember the lives of the enslaved people who lived and worked in the state of New Hampshire.

Small group activities: The County will be celebrating Emancipation Day by giving out free copies of the national building and the color of the building's exterior and the color of the building's interior.

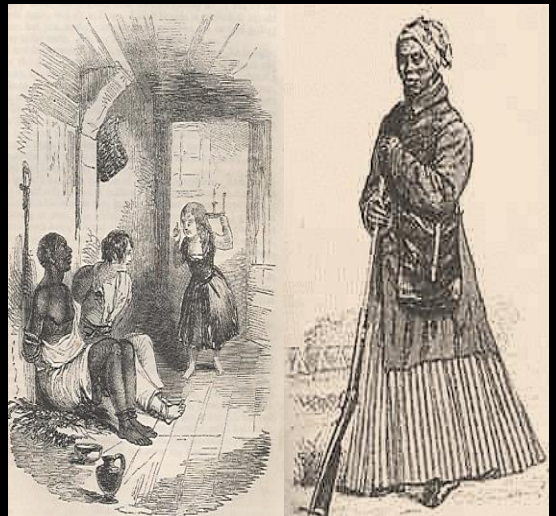
Call on the Green will be open 10:30 am - 4:00 pm. (508) 684-9131



# Freedom Journey

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- Black Revolutionary War Patriots
- Anti-Slavery Sentiments
- Abolitionist Actions
- Underground Railroad
- Enlistment of the United States Colored Troops
- Self Help Proclamations and Actions
- Spanish-American War





# “Do You Know These Realities of the Slave Trade?”



“Some Reflections on the Negro Trade.” The London Magazine, or Gentleman’s Monthly Intelligencer, June - October 1752.

The Court and City Register for the Year 1762, London: H. Woodfall, 1762.

The Court and City Calendar or Gentleman’s Register for the Year 1764, London: H. Woodfall, 1764. [Plantation owners]

“Society for the Purpose of Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade.” The London Gazette, London, no. 12956, January 15–January 19, 1788.

“An Essay on the Treatment and Conversion of African Slaves in the British Sugar Colonies,” The Critical Review, June 1784.

“The Horrors of the Negro Slavery Existing in Our West India Islands, Demonstrated from Official Documents Recently Presented to the House of Commons,” Hatchard, The Edinburgh Review or Critical Journal, October, 1805 – January, 1806.

“Latest from St. Domingo,” Prince Saunders Arrival, New York Herald, March 8, 1816.



# “Do You Know These Realities of the Slave Trade?”

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History of the Rise, Progress, and Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave-Trade by the British Parliament, by Thomas Clarkson, 1808.

An Enquiry Concerning the Intellectual and Moral Faculties, and Literature of Negroes; Followed with an Account of the Life and Works of Fifteen Negroes and Mulattoes, Distinguished in Science, Literature and the Arts, H. Gregoire, 1810.

Two Essays, One Upon Single Vision With Two Eyes, the Other On Dew: A Letter to the Right Hon. Lloyd Kenyon and An Account of a Female of the White Race of Mankind, Part of Whose Skin Resembles That of a Negro, William Charles Wells, 1818.

Abolition of the African Slave-Trade by the British Parliament: Abridged from Clarkson, Vol. I, Thomas Clarkson, 1830.

Abolition of the African Slave-Trade by the British Parliament: Abridged from Clarkson, Vol. II, Thomas Clarkson, 1830.



# “Do You Know These Realities of the Slave Trade?”



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“War with the Ashantees,” The Pocket Annual Register, of the History, Politics, Arts, Sciences, and Literature of the Year 1824, London, 1825.

“Mr. Wilmot Horton on Compulsory Manumission.” The Anti-Slavery Reporter, *Wilmot Horton*, February 1, 1831.

“State of Law and Manners in Jamaica Illustrated,” “Disturbances in Antigua,” and “The Recent West Indian Manifesto.” The Anti-Slavery Reporter. London, June 31, 1831.

“Slavery in Cuba,” “Essai Politique sur L’Isle de Cuba,” and Por Don Ramon, “Historia Economico-Politica y Estadistica de La Isla de Cuba,” Alexander De Humboldt, Christian Examiner and General Review, No. 82, 1837.

Emancipation in the West Indies: A Six Month’s Tour in Antigua, Barbadoes, and Jamaica in the Year 1837, Jas. Thome and J. Horace Kimball, The Anti-Slavery Examiner, The American Anti-Slavery Society, 1838.

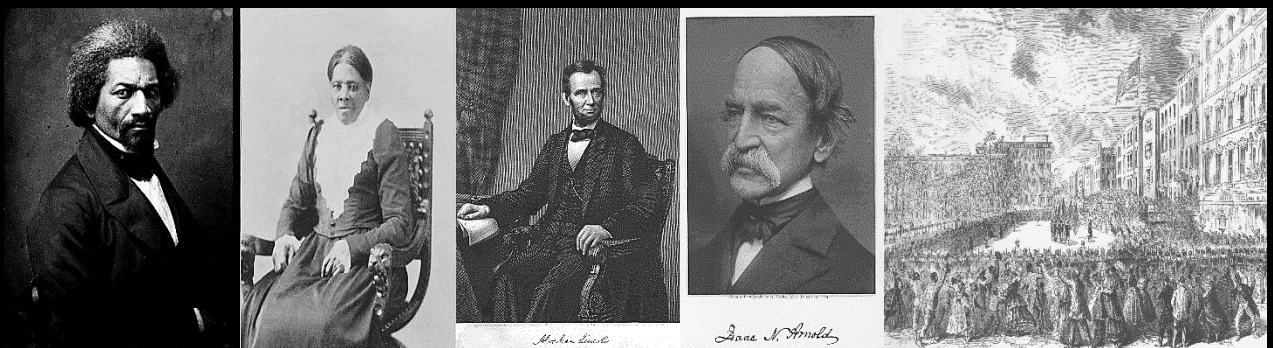
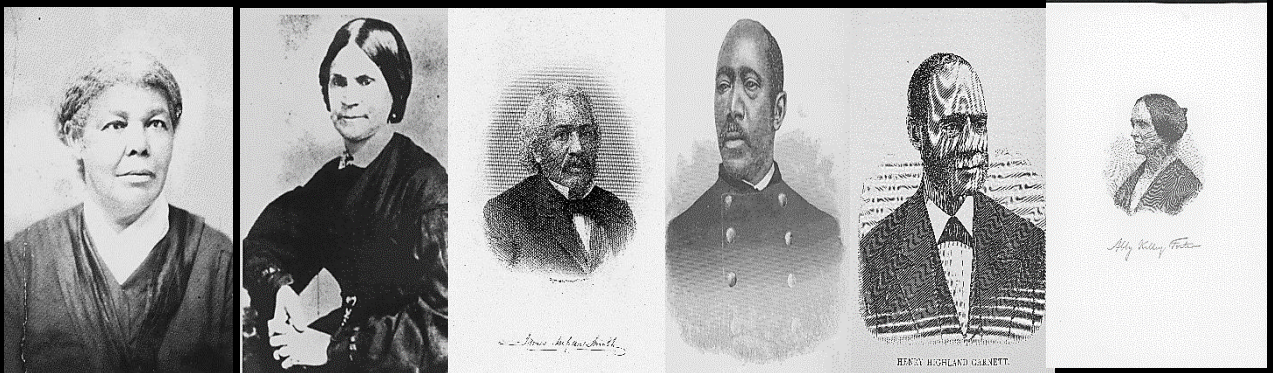
Reforms and Reformers of England, H.B. Stanton, 1853.

The Armorial of Haiti: Symbols of Nobility in the Reign of Henry Christophe, College of Arms, reproduction of the original, 2007.



# “Do You Know My Name?”

## Some Autobiographical and Biographical Images





# “Do You Know My Name?”

## Some Autobiographies and Biographies

Elleanor's Second Book, Elleanor Eldridge, 1841.

From the Virginia Plantation to the National Capital, John Mercer Langston, 1894.

Life of Jacob Hodges, A.D. Eddy, 1842.

Life and Public Services of Martin R. Delany, Frank A. Rollin, 1883.

Narrative of the Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince, 1856.

A North-Side View of Slavery. The Refugee: On the Narratives of Fugitive Slaves in Canada, Benjamin Drew, 1856.

Rev. J.W. Loguen, as a Slave and as a Freeman, J.W. Loguen, 1859.

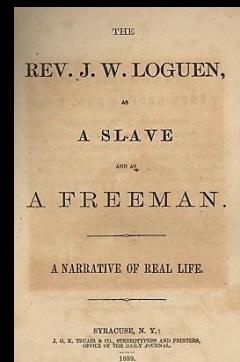
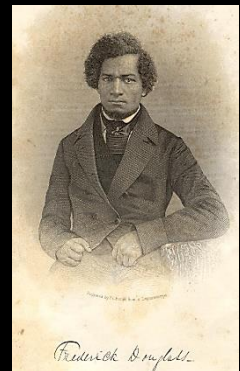
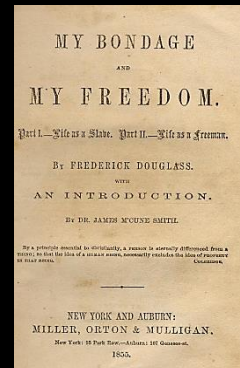
Story of Archer Alexander: From Slavery to Freedom, William G. Eliot, 1885.

Sketches of the Life and Character of the Reverend Lemuel Haynes, A.M., Mather Cooley, 1839.

Truth Stranger Than Fiction: Father Henson's Story, Josiah Henson, 1858.

Twenty-Two Years a Slave and Forty Years a Freeman, Austin Steward, 1861.

Twelve Years a Slave, Solomon Northup, 1853.





# “Do You Know My Name?”

## Some Autobiographies and Biographies

In Memoriam: Isaac Newton Arnold, Nov. 30, 1813-Apr. 24, 1884. Arthur Mason Arnold, May 13, 1838-Apr. 26, 1873, 1885.

A Head of Her Time: Abby Kelley and the Politics of Antislavery, Dorothy Sterling, 1991.

American Statesman: Thaddeus Stevens, Samuel W. McCall, 1899.

Autobiography of Horace Greeley, or Recollections of a Busy Life, Horace Greeley, 1872.

Harriet, The Moses of Her People, Sarah H. Bradford, 1897.

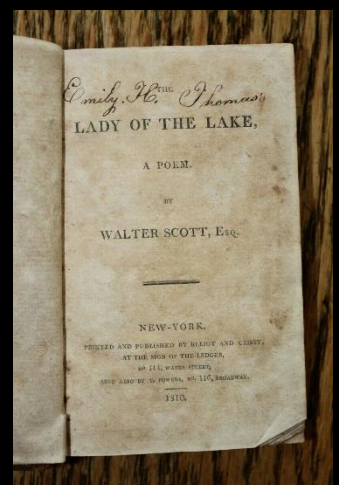
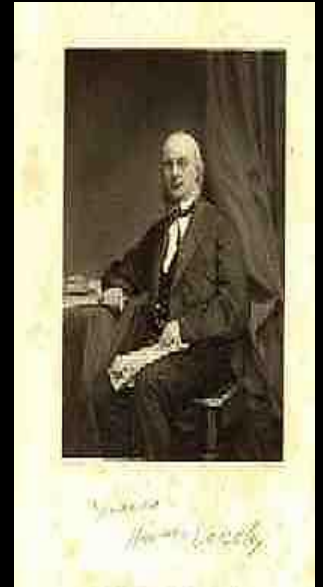
Life of William H. Seward with Selections from His Works, George E. Baker, 1855.

Public Life of Capt. John Brown, with an Autobiography of the Childhood and Youth, James Redpath, 1860.

Life of Toussaint L'Ouverture, John R. Beard, 1853.

A Woman's Life-Work: Labors and Experiences, Laura S Haviland, 1881.

“Harriet Tubman,” *The Anglo-African*, 1863.



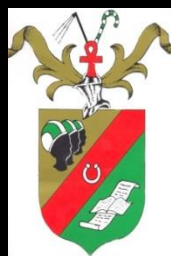




## Black Achievers at the Time of the Emancipation Proclamation – William Wells Brown, *Black Man*, 1863

Benjamin Banneker	Ira Aldridge	Crispus Attucks
Edwin M. Bannister	Jean Pierre Boyer	Henry Bibb
Capt. Callioux	Joseph Cater	Alexander Crummell
Jean Jacque Dessalines	Henri Christophe	Frederick Douglass
William Douglass	Placido	Charlotte L. Forten
George T. Downing	Madison Washington	Robert Morris
Alexander Dumas	Martin R. Delany	Leonard A. Grimes
Joseph Jenkins	Pres. Geffrard	John Mercer Langston
Henry Highland Garnet	William C. Nell	Toussaint L'Overture
Sir. Edward Jordan	Jeremiah B. Sanderson	James Lawson
Daniel A. Payne	J. Theodore Holly	James M'Cune Smith
Robert Small	William J. Wilson	John Sella
James WC Pennington	Capt. Joseph Howard	Andre Rigaud
Nat Turner	Martin Elymas	Payson Rogers
Charles L. Reason	Alexander Petion	William H. Simpson
Ex-Pres. Roberts	Robert Purvis	Charles Lenox Remond
John S. Rock	George B. Vashon	Denmark Vesey
Samuel R. Ward	Frances Ellen Watkins	Phyllis Wheatley
William Still*	James M. Whitfield	





# History and Genealogy Writings by Harry Bradshaw Matthews



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African American Freedom Journey in New York and Related Sites, 1823-1870, Freedom Knows No Color, Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers, 2008, ISBN 978-0-9799537-3-6, World Cat Accession Number: 214322630.

African American Genealogical Research: How to Trace Your Family History, 1992, revised 2007, ISBN 978-1-4675-3439-0, World Cat Accession Number: 181336094.

A Tribute to Harriet Tubman: A Reprint of the Article from the Anglo African, August 29, 1863, The Matthews Collection, USCTI, 2007.

Cato Freedom Project: Three African American Revolutionary War Patriots in Central New York, Harry Bradshaw Matthews, 2009.

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# History and Genealogy Writings by Harry Bradshaw Matthews

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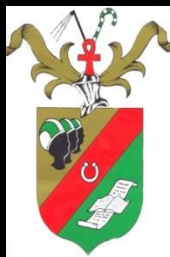
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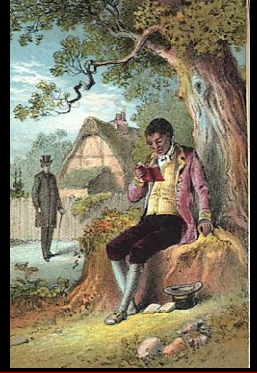
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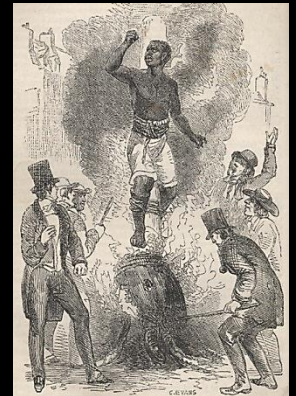
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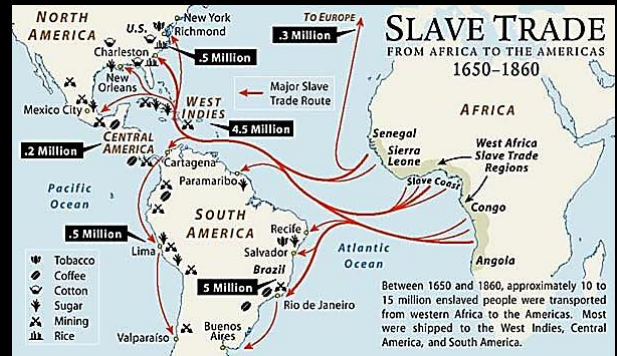


- 1553 – England enters slave trade.
- 1562 – Sir John Hawkins was the first Englishman to transport slaves to the Americas.
- 1734 - Ayuba Suleiman Diallo (Job Ben Solomon) life was detailed in Thomas Bluett's book, Some Memoirs of the Life of Job.
- 1745 - Olaudah Equiano was born in Eboe (Nigeria). He later emerged as a businessman in England. There he wrote his book in 1789 and emerged as a leading abolitionist in England.
- 1772- James Somerset Case ends slavery in England; terms of the Magna Carta used as an explanation for ending slavery.
- 1803 - Toussaint L'Ouverture led a successful Haitian revolt against France's Emperor Napoleon.





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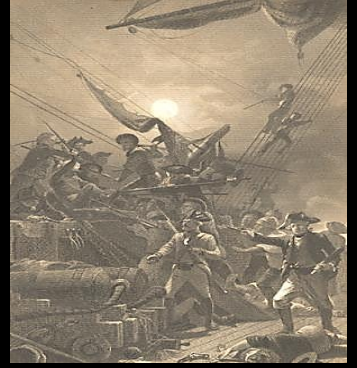
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# Legacy of Cato Freedom



- He was born in 1734 in Africa.
- He enlisted in Captain Sheldon or Douglass Company, Col. S.B. Webb's Third Regiment Connecticut Line in 1778 for three years.
- He appeared on New York's Veteran Roll in 1818.
- He resided in Burlington Township, Otsego County, NY in 1820, owning 33 acres of land and was married to 53-year-old Parmelia [Amelia]; daughters were 15-year-old Charlotte and 13-year-old Aurabia.
- Cato Freeman was the name inscribed on his tombstone at the Butternut Valley Cemetery.
- The date of death recorded on his tombstone was May 19, 1828.
- *The Freeman's Journal* in Cooperstown noted in Cato's obituary that he died May 24, 1829. [Recovered by H.B. Matthews in June 2016].
- Cato Freedom was the name recorded in his pension file with the date of death recorded as February 13, 1830.
- Cato Freedom is immortalized in *The Freedom Journey: The Underground Railroad to the Buffalo Soldiers in Otsego County, New York*, by Harry Bradshaw Matthews, 2012, ISBN 978-1-4675-3366-9.





# Legacy of Primus Hill



- A Black patriot, also known as Ebenezer Hill, was born about 1750.
- He enlisted in Captain Benjamin Throop's Company, Colonel Burrall's Connecticut Regiment in the winter of 1775 and 1776 fighting in the relief of the army in Canada; he was discharged at Fort Independence in February, 1777.
- His pension application was filed on March 14, 1820 at 70 years of age.
- He resided in Augusta, Oneida County, New York in 1821 with his 70-year-old wife Tamer and three granddaughters, 7-year-old Phebe, 5-year-old Jewell, and 2-year-old Jane.

Dec. 8, 1932

2A-J/YEL

The data furnished below are obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim, S.45677, based upon the military service of Primus Hill, in that war.

Primus Hill, also called Ebenezer Hill, a black man, enlisted, place not stated, in the winter of 1775 and 1776, served as a private in Captain Benjamin Throop's Company, Colonel Burrall's Connecticut Regiment, marched to the relief of the army in Canada and was discharged at Fort Independence in February, 1777, having served one year.

He was allowed pension on his application executed March 14, 1820, at which time he was aged about seventy years and made said application in Herkimer County, New York.

In 1821, he was residing in Augusta, Oneida County, New York, and then stated that his family residing with him consisted of his wife, Tamer, aged about seventy years, and three grandchildren, Phebe, Jewell and Jane, aged seven, five and two years respectively; their surnames and the names of their parents were not given.

There are no further family data.

*date of death  
not in QB*

To be sent if ever called for.  
It was written just to have a  
record of negroes.



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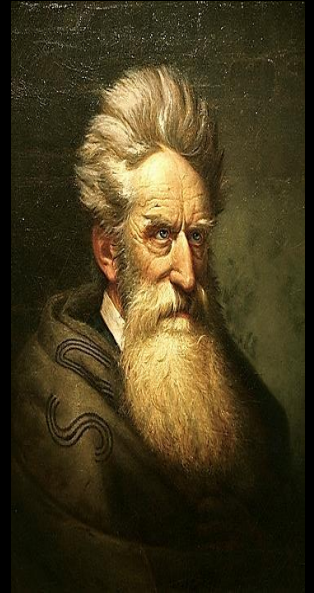
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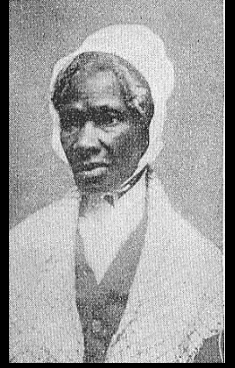
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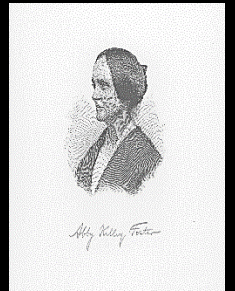
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# Chronology of an Organized Resistance to Slavery in the United States

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- 1784 - Grand Lodge of the Prince Hall Masons founded in MA.
- 1793 - Upper Canada [Ontario] led by Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe passed legislation “to prevent the introduction of slavery.”
- 1794 - African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded at the home of Richard Allen in Philadelphia: James Varick founded the AME Zion in 1796.



- Article 6: AME “That although we consider every child of God a member of the mystical body of Christ, yet in the political government of the Church, we do prohibit our white brethren from electing or being elected into any office among us, save that of a preacher or speaker.”



# Religious Independence

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- 1808 - Congress prohibited further importing of slaves.
- 1808 - Abyssinian Baptist Church established by Rev. Thomas Paul in New York City, along with African American and Ethiopian merchants.
- 1813 - Union Methodist Church of Delaware became first to effect an organization separate from whites [Wilmington].
- 1815 - Church Conference in effort to unite AME, AME Zion, and Union Methodist of Delaware; decision to remain with individual governances.
- 1815-16 - The AME Church and AME Zion Church became official during these years.
- 1827 - Prince Hall Masons completely separated from white Masons.





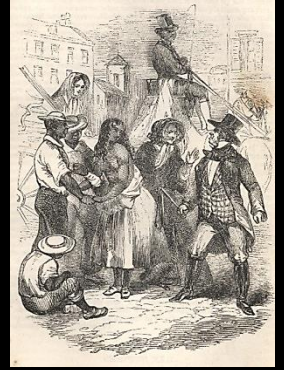
# Voices Advocating Actions

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- 1829 – David Walker's Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World called for armed resistance to slavery. Maria Stewart was his protégé.
- 1830 – Colored Men's Convention in Philadelphia was led by AME Bishop Richard Allen as president and Austin Steward of Rochester, New York as vice president.
- 1831 - Nat Turner slave revolt in Virginia aroused panic among whites throughout the South.
- 1831 - Colored Men's Convention advocated for establishing a college in Connecticut and also for some brethren to relocation to Canada West.
- 1832 - Colored Men's Convention reported that Connecticut citizens voted against a college for colored persons and that while 2,000 black persons had migrated to Canada living on 500 acres, a backlash was occurring among Canadians. A call was made for an end to slavery in Washington, DC.
- 1833 - Colored Men's Convention reported that Connecticut law banned literary societies among black people. Members voted against further colonizing in Canada.



# Interconnected Actions

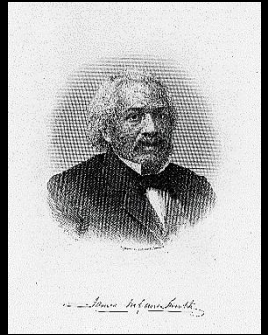


- 1833 - American Anti-Slavery Society was established, linking smaller efforts into a major network; local auxiliary groups emerged on county and state levels.
- 1834 - Slavery abolished in British Empire. English-speaking territories became havens for escaped Africans from the United States. Emancipation Day Celebrations were held on August 1st.
- 1834 - Colored Men's Convention called for the establishment of moral reform societies and Phoenix Societies at the local level for advancing morals, literature, and the mechanical arts. General Superintendent of the AME Zion Church at the lead along with Rev. Theodore S. Wright of NY's Shiloh Baptist Church. Resolution passed petitioning Congress for citizenship for black men.



# Educated Leaders Emerge

## “The Classical 15 Plus...”



- 1804 - Rev. Lemuel Haynes was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, was awarded an honorary masters of arts degree from Middlebury College.
- 1823 – Alexander Lucius Twilight graduated from Middlebury College.
- 1826 – Ernest Jones graduated from Amherst College; co-founder of the Freedom Journal in 1827.
- 1826 – John Brown Russwurm graduated from Bowdoin College.
- 1828 – Edward Mitchell graduated from Dartmouth College.
- 1829 – Rev. Theodore S. Wright graduated from the Princeton Theological Seminary.
- 1832 – Martin Delany enrolled at Jefferson College in Pittsburgh, PA.
- 1834 – James W.C. Pennington enrolled at Yale University; in 1849 he received an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University.
- 1836 – Isaiah G. DeGrasse graduated from Newark College (Univ. of Delaware).
- 1837 – Jermain Loguen enrolled at Oneida Institute, Whitesboro, NY. (for 2 years).
- 1837 – James McCune Smith graduated with a medical degree from the University of Glasgow, Scotland.
- 1837 – Daniel Alexander Payne graduated from the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary.
- 1839 – Henry Highland Garnet graduated from the Oneida Institute, Whitesboro, NY.



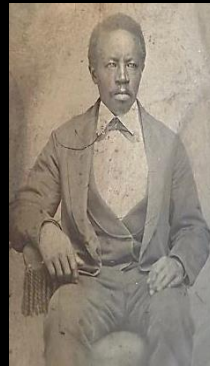
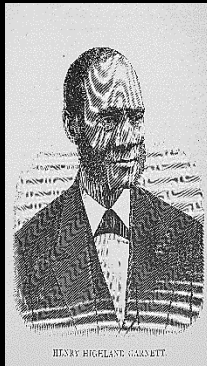
# Educated Leaders Emerge “The Classical 15 Plus”



- 1843 – Mary Elizabeth Miles graduated from Massachusetts State Normal School (now Framingham State College).
- 1849 – Martin Freeman graduated from Middlebury College; became a college professor at Allegheny Institute.  
  
Charles L. Reason named a professor at the mix- race college New York Central College.
- 1851 – North American Convention of Colored Freemen held in Toronto.
- Harriet Tubman visits St. Catharines, Canada where she meets AME Rev. Alexander Hemsley, who in 1837 had fled to Otsego County, NY, before continuing his journey to freedom in St. Catharines.
- Rev. Jermain Loguen of Syracuse, NY, fled to St. Catharines after Jerry Rescue.
- Mary Elizabeth Miles relocated to Windsor, Canada West with her husband Henry Bibbs. The couple published *Voice of the Fugitive*, the first black owned newspaper in Canada.



# Scholars in Action

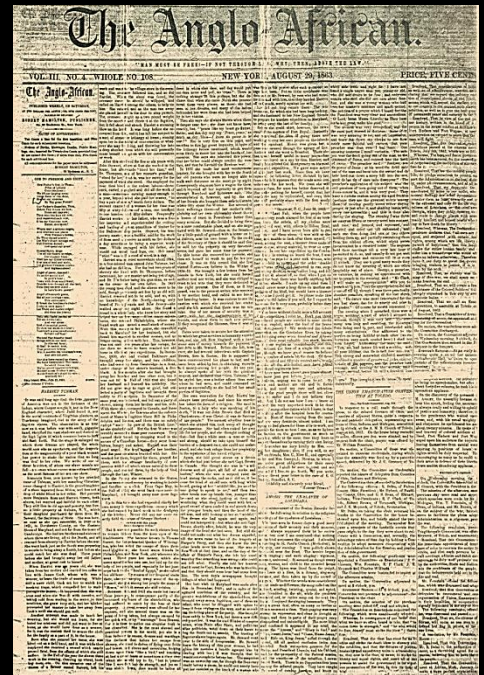


- 1852 – Professor Freeman awarded an honorary master's degree from Middlebury College.
- 1853 – Alexander Crummell graduated from Cambridge University, UK.; Episcopal Priest.
- Mary Ann Shadd published *The Provincial Freeman* to encourage emigration to Canada West. She relocated to Chatham (near Buxton) in 1855.
- 1856 – The B.M.E. was formally established in Chatham having separated from the A.M.E. Church; first Conference held in Toronto, Bishop Willis Nazrey presiding, with A.M.E. Bishop Daniel A. Payne present.
- Benjamin Drew, a white American abolitionist, book, A North-Side of Slavery: The Refugee or the Narratives of Fugitive slaves in Canada.



# Publishing Opinions

- 1837 - William Whipper of Columbia, PA wrote an essay, "On Non-Resistance to Offensive Aggression," to which editors of the *Colored American* responded:
- "We publish this address with pleasure, hoping our readers will make the most of all the principles and arguments presented in favor of universal "peace;" But, we honestly confess that we have yet to learn what virtue there would be in using moral weapons, in defense against a kidnapper or a midnight raider."
- 1837- David Ruggles, a free CT-born man, moved to NYC. During 1837, he served as secretary of the New York Committee of Vigilance, protecting escaped Africans. He operated a printing plant in CT and a bookstore that turned out many pamphlets advocating the overthrow of slavery.





# Organizing Groups for Protest

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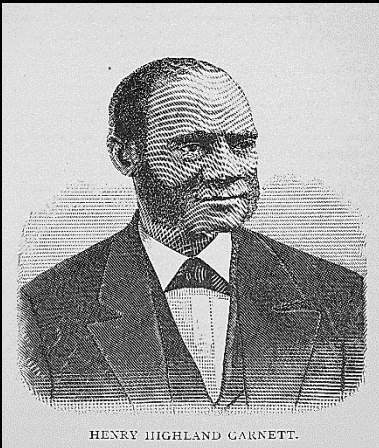
- 1837 - Women organized the Anti-Slavery Women's convention in NYC as the first women's political convention in the USA, with more than 200 black and white delegates joining together, including black and white officers. Frances E.W. Harper attended it.
- 1838 - Payne assumed penname of Origen. He met with Gerrit Smith and Beriah Greene in NY before relocating to Carlisle, PA during his year-long illness.
- 1838 - Women's Anti-Slavery Convention was held in Philadelphia under massive protest.



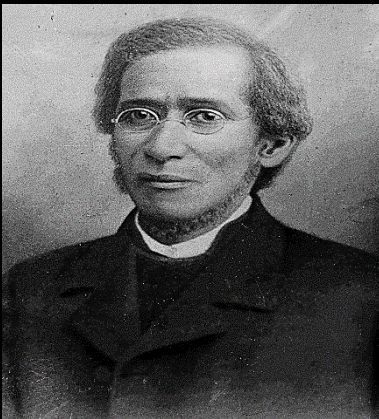


# African Civilization Society in America: Garnet Meets Payne

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- 1839 - Henry Highland Garnet, an escaped African from Maryland, graduated with honors from the Oneida Institute, Whitesboro, NY. He became a licensed preacher, and was later head of Shiloh Presbyterian Church in NYC. He was an active member of the Liberty Party.



- Payne delivered antislavery address at the conference of the Franckean Synod, Ft. Plain, NY.
- 1840 - Payne relocated to Philadelphia and opened a school, attracting attention from the AME Church. Garnet pastured at the Liberty Street Presbyterian Church, East Troy, NY.



# Split in Anti-Slavery Ranks

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- 1840 – The state of Maryland passed a law banning free persons of color from traveling in and out of its state. It was targeted against the resistance and liberation that free persons of African descent were engaging in as a means of liberation of enslaved brethren. The number of slaves decreased in the state from 111.5 thousand in 1810 to 89.7 thousand in 1840.
- American Anti-Slavery Society rejected Abby Kelley [Garrisonian] as a member of its business committee on gender lines. The Society split, with the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society organized with Gerrit Smith support, including the endorsement of the Liberty Party. Soon after, Garrison attempted to gain a resolution of support from the darker brethren at Rev. Wright's church meeting. The attempt failed. Black men emerged as a stronger force in the movement.

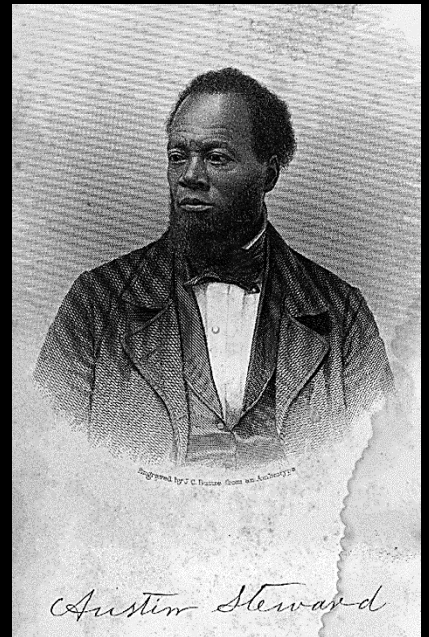




# Declaration of Independence by Black Leadership Council

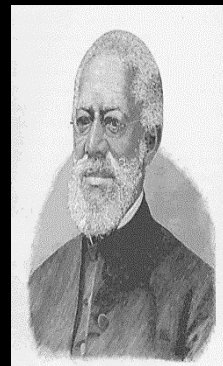
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- 1840 - Jamaica Convention Declaration - Thomas Van Ranslaer of New York, Aaron Wood of Flushing, Rev. JWC Pennington of Newtown, and William P. Johnson of New York issued call for a state convention to address disenfranchisement, being debarred from higher learning, being insulted by proprietors of public conveyance, outraged by system of public caste throughout the community.
- The state convention occurred in Albany, New York; it created resentment among many white abolitionists, including Gerrit Smith, Garrison, etc.
- Convention was also opposed by Dr. Smith because it was limited to black men, but he attended. Austin Steward of Rochester was elected President of the Convention, which was held in Albany, NY.





# Colored Men's Convention Albany, New York 1840



- **New York** – Rev. Theo. S. Wright, Rev. C.B. Ray, Chas. L. Reason, Alexander Crummell, Frederick Olney, Henry Williams, Patrick H. Reason, Wm. R. Thompson, Jeffery Van Clief, J.H. Bishop, John M. Dolan, William P. Johnson, Thomas Jefferson. **Kings** – Benjamin Cruger, Augustus Washington, Brooklyn. **Queens** – Samuel V. Berry, Jamaica, Edward M. Africanus, Flushing. **New York** – John J. Zuille, George Lawrence, Sr., Frederick Olney, Charles L. Reason, Charles B. Ray, Patrick H. Reason, Alexander Elston, James Fields, Timothy Seaman, William P. Johnson. **Westchester** – John Dungee, Sing Sing, **Orange** – John Van Huesen, Sanford Hunter. **Dutchess** – Uriah Boston, Nicholas H. Simons, John N. Mars, Poughkeepsie. **Ulster** – Thomas Harley, Kingston. **Green** – Martin Cross, Catskill. **Van Rensselaer** – William Rich, James A. Furbord, Troy. **Albany** – Charles S. Morton, Henry R. Crummell, J.F. Murray. **Washington** – John Harris, Whitehall. **Otsego** – Henry Granger, Cooperstown. **Oneida** – William D. Anderson, Utica. **Madison** – Samuel R. Ward, Petersboro. **Onondaga** – Ambrose Dunbar, John Chester, Syracuse. **Schenectady** – R.P.G. Wright, Schenectady. **Tioga** – Luther Johnson, Owego. **Tompkins** – Henry Jackson, Ithaca. **Herkimer** – William Johnson, Little Falls. **Livingston** – John Crawford, Charles McGayner, Genesee. **Seneca** – Thomas James, Seneca Falls. **Jefferson** – Julius Terrill, Sacketts Harbor. **Ontario** – J.W. Duffin, Geneva, David Ray, Canandaigua. **Monroe** – Austin Steward, Rochester. **Erie** – Abner H. Francis, George Ware, Buffalo. **Steuben** – Simon Watkins, L. Platt, Bath. **Allegany** – John Peterson, Scio, Isaish Hough, Friendship. **Wayne** – P. Lee, William Bristol, Palmyra. **Orleans** – Richard Gardner, Medina. **Niagara** – James Morgan, Nathan Blount, Lockport. **Oswego** – T.E. Grant, Oswego. **Cortland** – William Simmons, Cortland Village. **Broome** – Charles Spruce, Binghamton.



# Election of Delegates: Colored Men's Convention – 1840

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- **Albany** – Rev. John T. Raymond, Eli N. Hall, Chas. S. Morton, William H. Topp, David Thomas, Michael Dougee, James F. Murray, Jacob Waldron, Primus Robinson, F. Van Vranken, A. Johnson, Henry R. Crummell, John Springsteal, Stephen Myers, Richard Thompson, M. Thompson, William Johnson, Henry Jackson, Wm. Queen, Henry Johnson, Samuel Streeter, James Baltimore, Nicholas Bogart, Oliver King, R. Springsteal, Benjamin Cutler, Hiram Dalton, John Tate, Adam Blake, Eli Johnson, H. Emery, J. Lain.
- **Troy** – Alex Thuey, Wm. Rich, J.A. Hubbard, Francis Baker, Jacob Brown, Francis L. Allen, Ezekiel George, H. Highland Garnet, Samuel Jefferson, Lewis Jones, George B. Moulton, George H. Baltimore, Prince Vaneller, Rev. Robert Butler, William Garrison, F. Thompson, Anthony Schuyler, Clarence P. Seldon, Rev. George Garnet, Abram Jackson, James Gardner, Moses F. Van Leer, Daniel Jones, J. Woods, Jesse Prince.
- **Schenectady** – R.P.G. Wright, Francis Simson, F. Jackson, John Wendell, Richard Sampson, Francis Dana, T. Harris, Moses Wilcox, S. Barnes, G. Murray, M. Miner, Francis Thompson, J. Thompson, Francis La Tour, R. Murray.
- **West Troy** - York La Tour. **Lansingburgh** – Andrew Grant, Frisby Way, John Jamieson, George Baker, Chas. Sherman, Chas. Shim, Augustus Gifford, Thomas Van Brankers, George Lansen, John Johnson, Daniel Oliver.



# Emergence of Multiple Aspects of the African American Infrastructure

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- 1841 - James W.C. Pennington, an escaped African from Maryland, and later pastor of the African Congregational Church in Hartford, CT, published his book, A Text Book of the Origin and History of the Colored People. He received his Doctorate of Divinity degree at the University of Heidelberg.
- 1841 - Maryland passed law banning black men from belonging to secret societies, being Afraid that the African Grand Lodge of the Prince Hall Masons would gain strong inroads in the state.
- AME Church established newspaper, *African Methodist Episcopal Church Magazine*.
- 1842 - Jermain Wesley Loguen, an escaped African from Tennessee, studied at Oneida Institute, ordained a minister AME Zion, Syracuse. He was "Superintendent of the Underground Railroad."





# Frederick Douglass' Emergence: Meets Garnet and Payne

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- 1842 - Frederick Douglass lectured for the American Anti-Slavery Society; he visited Rochester, New York.
- Garnet start. two newspapers in Troy, NY; *National Watchman* and the *Clarion*. He was a Liberty Party member. Stephen Meyers in Albany, NY established the *Northern Star and Freeman's Advocate*.
- 1842 - Daniel A. Payne joined Bethel AME in Philadelphia. *Western Citizens of Chicago* indicated that Fort Malden, Canada had \$400,000 worth of former enslaved Americans residing there.





# Split Among Black Abolitionists

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- 1843 - Henry Highland Garnet, then 27-years of age, gave an oration at the Buffalo Convention of Colored men. Included among those in attendance were Frederick Douglass, William Wells Brown, Charles B. Ray, and Charles L. Remond. Garnet's stated resolution, modeled from David Walker's 1828 *Appeal*, was defeated by one vote:
- "Brethren, arise, arise! Strike for your lives and liberties. Now is the day and the hour. Let every slave throughout the land do this, and the days of slavery are numbered. You cannot be more oppressed than you have been - you cannot suffer greater cruelties than you have already. Rather die freemen than live to be slaves. Remember that you are four millions!"
- Frederick Douglass, a Garrisonian, challenged Garnet's resolution and won by one vote.







# Freedom of the Mind



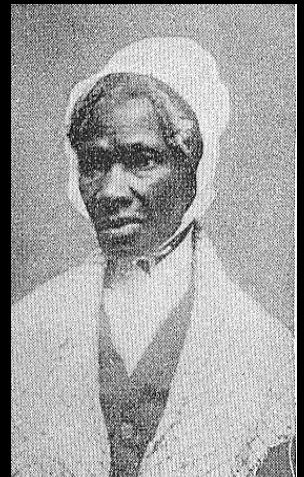
- 1843 – Martin Delany published the *Northern Star*, later the *Mystery* in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Payne was in full association with AME Church, although still listed in the books of the Lutheran's Franckean Synod.
- 1843 - Garnet helped organized the Colored Men's Convention in Albany and gained the passage of a resolution endorsing the Liberty Party, as a direct affront to the Garrisonian principles.
- 1844 – R.B. Lewis' book, Light and Truth ... Colored and the Indian Race, provided a Biblical and historical account of people of African descent and the Native Americans.
- 1846 - Frederick Douglass' book, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass was a big hit in England.
- 1847 - Frederick Douglass began publishing his newspaper, *North Star*, at the AME Zion Church in Rochester and with the help of Delany.
- 1848 - Free Soil Convention brought together members of Free Soil Party and Liberty Party.



# Ethnic Identity Intensifies

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- 1849 - Delany left the *North Star*. Douglass proclaim, "I thank God for making me a man; Delany thanks God for making him a black man."
- 1849 - Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in Maryland. Pennington writes the Fugitive Blacksmith.
- Williams Wells Brown, wrote the book, Anti-Slavery Harps, a series of poems.
- 1850 - President Millard Fillmore signed the Fugitive Slave Law that in affect allowed any white man to accuse a black person of being an escaped slave. Increased kidnapping resulted in black persons being captured without legal rights; many fled to Canada.
- Tubman risked her life by returning to Maryland to help her sister and children escape. The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave was published.





# Diverse Voices for Freedom

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- 1851 - Frederick Douglass at the American Anti-Slavery Society Convention challenged the Garrisonians, expressing it the duty of every American citizen to use his political as well as moral power for slavery's overthrow. Gerrit Smith offered to merge his paper with Douglass' paper.
- 1851 - Anti-Slavery Society of Canada was headquartered in Toronto. Truth delivered her explosive speech, "Aint I a Woman?" at the Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio.
- 1852 - Daniel A. Payne elected sixth bishop of AME Church; he established Wilberforce University in 1856.
- 1854 - Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed slavery to enter into a territory where it was previously banned since the 1820 Missouri Compromise.
- 1857 - Harriet Tubman joined AME Zion Church in Auburn, NY.



# Revolution is at Hand

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- 1857 - Dred Scott Decision - Supreme Court ruled that a slave traveling from the slave state of Missouri to the free state of Illinois, and the free territory of Minnesota, did not make him free, and in effect, he did not have a right to bring a suit. Chief Justice Taney presided.
- The decision sparked the coming together of “conscience” Whigs and Free Soilers to organize the Republican Party, the favorite party of black men, including Garnet, Ray, and Douglass.
- 1859 - John Brown led 21 men in an attack on the federal arsenal at Harper’s Ferry, VA, with the idea of acquiring arms, distributing them to local black persons, and seizing the town. Included among the party were Shield Greens and Dangerfield Newby, who were former slaves.





# Lincoln and the Slavery Issue

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- 1861 - Abraham Lincoln Inaugural - "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exist. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so."
- 1861 - Payne, Garnet, Crummell, and others met in April to discuss the war issue, including the enlistment of black men. Others joined in the call. Payne met with Frederick Douglass during the summer.
- 1862 - Payne traveled to Washington, DC to visit Senator George Sumner and President Lincoln. Several months later, Payne relocated to Washington, DC.

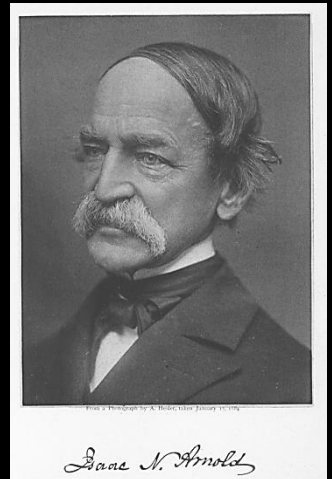




# Arnold Resolution Ending Slavery in Washington, DC and Florida Territory

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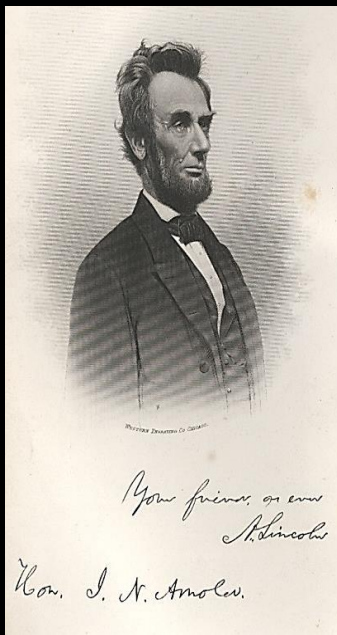
- 1862 - Isaac Newton Arnold, a former student of the Hartwick Seminary and Academy, and Republican Congressman from Illinois, was credited with the HR bill that led to the ending of slavery in Washington, DC and the Florida territory. Payne met with Lincoln urging the President to sign Arnold's bill. The bill was signed into law April 16th.
- 1862 – President Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation in September providing to Rebel states and territories the opportunity to return to the Union without penalty. There were no takers.
- *National Anti-Slavery Standard, Anglo-African*, and other abolitionist papers were regularly urging the enlistment of black men into the Union ranks.





# President Lincoln Urged by Congressman Isaac Newton Arnold

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1863 - Emancipation Proclamation included provision for President to bring Freedmen into the Union ranks. Eventually, the USCT included more than 200,000 black soldiers from the United States, the Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Cuba, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica and other Caribbean territories, in addition to some men of Asian descent and 7,000 white officers.

1863 – President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863, providing for the enlistment of newly freed men to enlist in the United States Colored Troops.

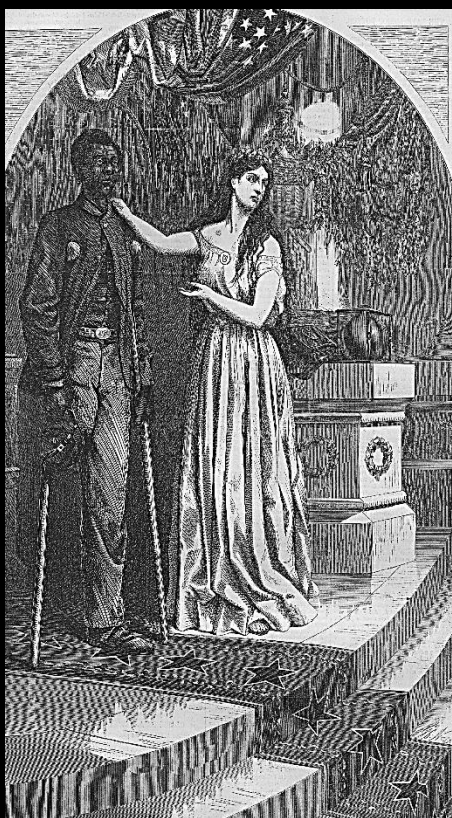
1864 – THE ARNOLD RESOLUTION, introduced February 15, 1864, led to the Thirteenth Amendment ending slavery.

“Resolved, that the Constitution should be amended, as to abolish slavery in the United States wherever it now exists, and to prohibit its existence in every part thereof, forever.”



# Sample USCT from the Tri-Cities, New York

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**20th USCT** - Samuel Dixon – Co. D, Albany;  
Thomas Moore – Co. E, Albany

**26th USCT** - Charles Baker – Co. C, Albany;  
William Burns – Co. F, Albany; Robert Dixon  
– Co. C, Albany; John Epps – Co., Troy;  
Joseph Jackson – Co. C, Ballston Spa; Robert  
H. Jackson – Co. H, Bethlehem; George  
Jackson – Co. G, Schenectady;

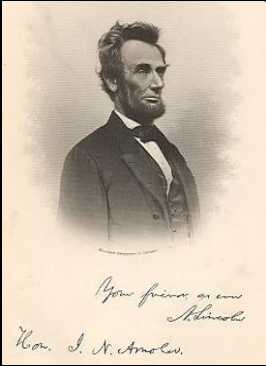
**54th Mass** – Elmer H. Jackson, Co. A, Troy;  
Enoch Davis, Co. C, East Troy; Corpl Richard  
M. Foster, Co. C, East Troy; John H. Jackson,  
Co. C, Troy; William Van Alstine, Co. C, East  
Troy.





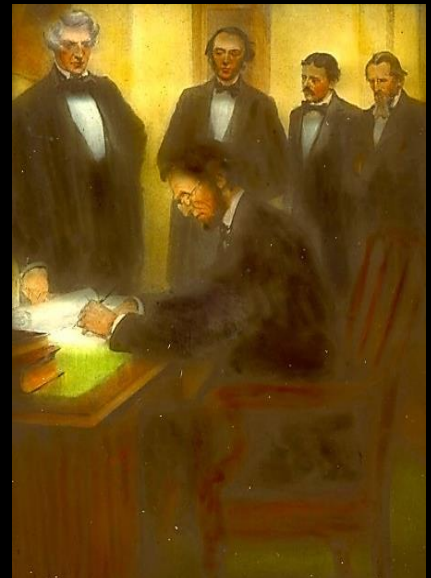
- 1863 - Massachusetts's Fifty-fourth Colored Regiment became first Northern regiment of black soldiers organized during the Civil War. The black soldiers of the regiment, however, were not the first black soldiers from the North. Some other men enlisted into white regiments in New York before President Lincoln authorized the enlistment of black men in the Union forces.
- The white abolitionist, Gerrit Smith, contributed \$500 to support the regiment, as well as urged black men in New York to organize a regiment which he promised to support financially.
- In March, Jermain Loguen of Syracuse issued the call, "Men to Arms." Frederick Douglass soon after issued his call to arms.
- Lewis Douglass, son of Frederick, held the highest enlistment rank of Sergeant Major. His brother, Charles, was also a Sergeant.
- Stephen Swails of Cooperstown and Elmira, became the first black enlisted soldier to be promoted to Lieutenant. Garnet became the acting chaplain of the three regiments organized in New York. Delany was appointed a field officer.





# Lincoln's Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation

- 1864 - Representative Isaac Newton Arnold introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives, which was passed, calling for an amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery in the United States. This sparked debates, defeats, reconsiderations, and finally the House passage of the Thirteenth Amendment following the pace-setting action in the Senate.
- 1865 - President Lincoln instructed General Benjamin Butler to proceed with developing plans to remove all black soldiers and their families to a colony in Columbia, South America. President Lincoln was assassinated before the plan was put into effect.
- 1865 - The Thirteenth Amendment ending slavery in the United States became law in December, 1865.





# Black Brethren Fight for Their Freedom

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African American Freedom in New York and Related Sites, 1827-1870, Harry Bradshaw Matthews, 2008.

Army Life in a Black Regiment, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, 1870.

Black Phalanx: A History of the Negro Soldiers of the United States in the War of 1776-1812, 1861-65, Joseph T Wilson, 1889.

Historical Research Respecting the Opinions of the Founders of the Republic on Negroes as Slaves, Citizens, and as Soldiers, George Livermore, 1862.

History of the Fifty-Fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry 1863-1865, Luis Emilio, 1894.

History of the Negro Troops in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865, George Washington Williams, 1888.

Whence They Came: The Families of United States Colored Troops in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 1815-1992, Harry Bradshaw Matthews, revised 2010.



# Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments

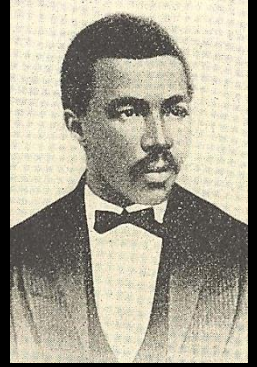
- 1868 – Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on July 28, more than two years after it was proposed in 1866.
- “Section 1 – All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States of and the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”
- 1870 – Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on February 3, 1870.
- “Section 1 – The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”



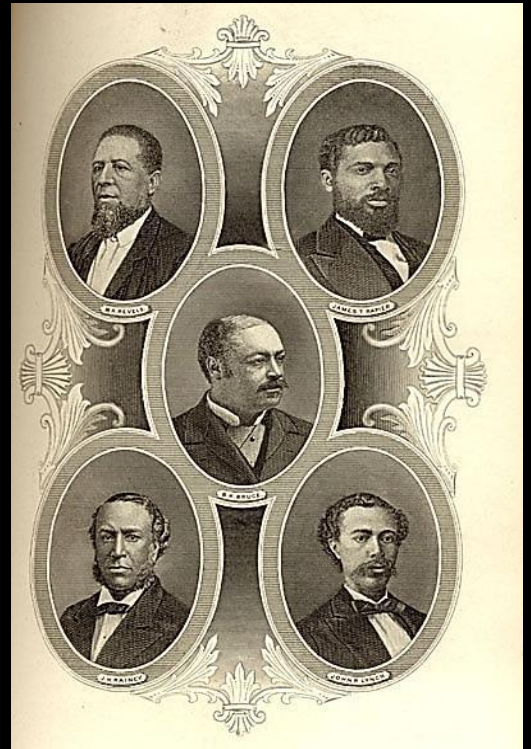


# Reconstruction Congressmen

## Robert Brown Elliott [SC]



- Senator Hiram R. Revels [MS]; Rep. James T. Rapier [AL];
- Senator Bruce K. Bruce [MS]; Rep. Joseph H. Rainey [SC];
- and John R. Lynch [MS] early black Congressmen.
- Eight black Congressmen from SC, including Elliott, were the largest number of 23 black Congressmen during Reconstruction.





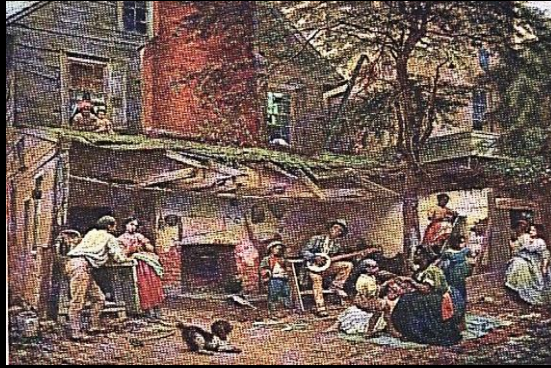
# Local History and Family Research: Topic Areas

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- Oral History
- Reviewing Local Records and Family Documents
- Surveying Publications and Web Sources
- Ordering Census Records
- Ordering Family Documents
- Documenting Back to 1870
- Acquiring Freedmen Work Contracts, 1866-1869
- Surveying Elder Relative's Community [Before and After Slavery]
- Documenting Probable Families Who Owned Your Ancestors
- Establishing Links







### Important Resources for Identifying Local African American Personalities

1. Oral History - Utilize the stories told by elders; examine pictures, family documents, etc., for clues.

2. Free Negro Heads of Families in the United States in 1830, Carter G. Woodson, 1925 - Each family identified with name of head of household along with numerical counts for others in each household. Compilation is by state, county, and town/city. A few locales are missing.

3. *Colored American, Anglo-African, Emancipator, National Anti-Slavery Standard* newspapers, etc., - Included the names and communities/states where men and women of African descent resided.





# African American Ancestors in Historical Context: Development of an Identity and Civic Infrastructure

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- 4. Church Records -AME, AME Zion, Delaware Methodist, Baptist, and other churches - Include not only names, but frequently cite incidents involving members.
- 5. Tax Books - Frequently, men of color, negro, black, were listed in a separate listing in the back of tax books.
- 6. 1865 Township Military Enlistment Book, Military Pension Records, GAR Books, etc. - Each township was required to prepare a book record listing the men from its township who served in the Union ranks.
- 7. 1850 - 1860 Federal Census and other census records - The name of each free person in a household was first recorded in the 1850 Census; 1860 Census included pre-Civil War free families.
- 8. 1865 – 1868 Work Contracts between Freedmen and white farmers (often previously slave owners), Freedmen's Bureau.
- 9. 1870 – The census included for the first time most black households.